WHEN I SEE CHERRY BLOSSOMS, I THINK BACK TO ALMOND BLOSSOMS...

...AND HOW THEIR PETALS SOFTLY FRAMED POMPEII AS THEY DANCED UPON THE WIND.

ALMOST LIKE...

...ANGEL FEATHERS.

YES, AND YOU YOURSELF...

...MY OWN ANGEL OF LOVE.

DON'T LEAD ME ASTRAY, MY SWEET, FOR MY BURNING HOT PASSION WON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.☆

POOR LORD SIRIX AND HIS MERRY FRIENDS

Special appearance by the wealthy Mr. Raoul

* THIS WAS A "NG U-PANEL" COMIC, PAST LIFE VERSION, DRAWN WHEN AN NG LIFE NOTEBOOK WAS INCLUDED IN THE PURCHASE OF HANA TO YUME MAGAZINE.

WHO...
...ARE YOU SAYING THAT TO?
That second half didn't make much sense
HA HA HA! ☆ WHY, TO YOU OF COURSE, SERENA! ♡
Tee hee hee!
OH MY, LORD SIRIX!
AND WHO MIGHT THIS BE?
A FRIEND...
WHO IS SHE?
...JUST A FRIEND..
LORD SIRIX?
SERENA'S THE ONLY ONE FOR ME...?
LOOK INTO MY EYES. ♡
KEIDAI!
GAH!
WHATCHA DOIN' SPACING OUT?
OH, IT'S YU.. YUUMA.
ba dum ba dum ba dum
?
WHAT WAS THAT? A WAKING DREAM...?
A PAINFUL DREAM THAT STABBED THROUGH MY HEART LIKE A KNIFE
SORRY.. I WAS JUST ENTRANCED BY THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS
WELL, SHAP OUT OF IT, OKAY?
WE CAN'T START THE CHERRY BLOSSOM VIEWING UNTIL YOU DO THE PROPER INTRODUCTIONS, YOU KNOW?
THAT'S RIGHT. NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR A WAKING DREAM.
AT ANY RATE, VERY SOON..

BECAUSE IN THE PAST MY DAD WAS SHINOGU-SAN'S GREATEST NEMESIS, AFTER ALL.

WHAAAT! RAOUL, YOU SAY?!

YESTERDAY.

IT'S NOT JUST YOUR IMAGINATION, YOU TWO...

YEAH, COULD BE OUR IMAGINATION.

...GIVING OFF SOME STRANGE VIBES?

IS IT MY IMAGINATION, OR IS KAGAMI-SENSEI ...

Ah! Raoul

Where's the maggot that dares approach Serena?!

I TRIED TO CATCH HIM IN THE ACT OF SEDUCTION A NUMBER OF TIMES, BUT HE ALWAYS MANAGED TO DODGE ME.

Well this got messy so I'm off

IF THAT SORT OF SCUM IS GONNA BE AROUND YUUMA.

I'M GOING TO THAT CHERRY BLOSSOM VIEWING PARTY TOO!!

AND EACH TIME I ENDED UP GETTING CAUGHT AND TORTURED INSTEAD, DIDN'T I...

RAOUL, THAT SPOILED POMPEIIAN NOBLEMAN WHO NOT ONLY SEDUCED ALL THOSE WOMEN AND MADE THEM CRY...

...BUT SET HIS SIGHTS ON SERENA AS WELL...?!

That dreary woman bastard!

HATING HIS OWN KIND?

...A GREAT MONSTER BATTLE MIGHT BREAK OUT...!!

...THESE ARE... MY PARENTS.

SHINOGU-SAN.

UH... UHH, SO THIS IS SHINOGU KAGAMI-SAN, OUR STUDENT TEACHER AND YUUMA'S COUSIN.

CHARMED, I'M SURE.

THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF KEIDAI.

Villainous Look

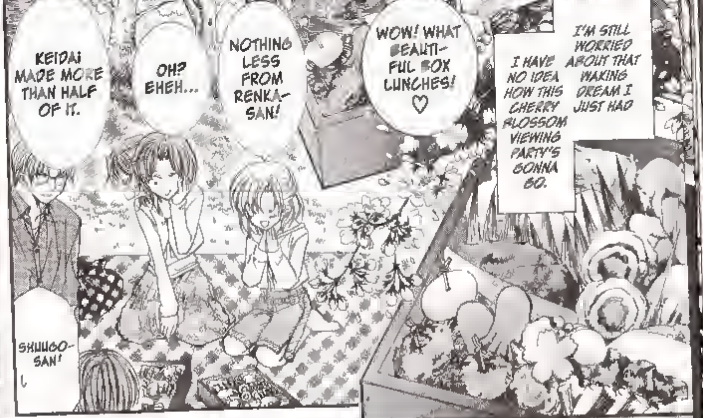
WHEN I TOLD SHINOGU-SAN WE'D BE CHERRY BLOSSOM VIEWING TOGETHER, HE SAID HE WANTED TO PARTICIPATE...

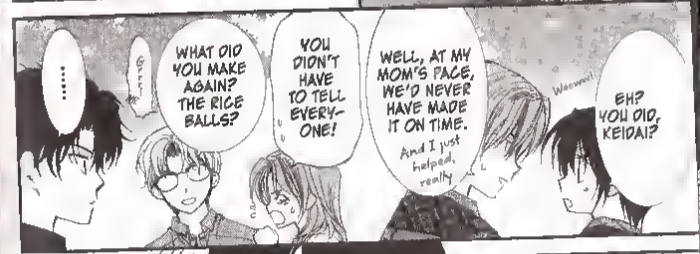
HOW LOVELY TO MEET YOU. I'M SOOO SORRY TO IMPOSE.

Its NG Life volume 3. This is the first time I've ever made it to a third volume for anything I've drawn. I'm sooo happy! Huge thanks to all the readers, my editor and everyone else on staff as well! Thank you for sticking with me through three volumes!

I had so much fun drawing the cherry blossom viewing episode because I got to get all the characters together. I wish I could have drawn a bit more of Mom and Dad. I want to draw more about their past lives too, but I have to start advancing Keidai's present story as well, so please be patient on that. And of course I want to draw more about everyone else's story as well! Even if it ends up being a side story.

Changing topics a bit about the illustration from NG Life 2. The last chapter illustration featured Serizawa and, FYI, the flower petals = her past memories. So she's trying to gather up her memories but they keep slipping through her fingers - is the image I wanted to portray. I forgot to mention it back in Volume 2.





EEE! IT'S SAEKI-SAN.
The neighborhood housewives.
OH, HELLO THERE.
ARE YOU HERE FOR CHERRY BLOSSOM VIEWING? WHAT A COINCIDENCE
Oh my this trees very nice too
UM, PLEASE HELP YOURSELF! ♡
I made a lot
OH NO YOU DON'T, MATSUOKA-SAN! TRY MINE TOO!
Mine too! Mine too!
WELL, AREN'T YOU POPULAR...
...I GIVE UP.
Well then we'll be off!
Eeee!
WHAT WITH ALL THOSE GIFTS, I GUESS YOU WON'T BE NEEDING OUR LUNCH.
OF COURSE, ALL I MADE WERE THE RICE BALLS...
Ah!
SHUUGO-SA...
IF YOU DOUBT ME AT ALL, THEN DON'T FEEL TORN ABOUT ACCEPTING ANOTHER MAN'S INVITATION.
FROM THE VERY BEGINNING...
...ALL I EVER NEEDED WERE THESE RICE BALLS.
SHUUGO-SAN...
Sweet!
HEY! DON'T BE GETTING ALL ROMANTIC COMEDY IN FRONT OF THE KIDS!
YOUR OLD MAN'S IMPRESSIVE
I WONDER IF HE'S REALLY RELATED TO YOU, KEI-CHAN.
THAT BASTARD SO THAT'S HOW HE'S BEEN STRINGING HIS WOMEN ALONG...
IN MY BOOK, YOU ARE ONE AND THE SAME ...
OKAY THEN! GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO CRUSH HIM WITH MY TRUMP CARD!
SHINOGU-SAN?!

WHAT WAS RAOUL-SAN LIKE IN THE PAST?

WHEN I WAS IN POMPEII, I COULD HAVE NEVER EVEN IMAGINED THAT I'D BE CHERRY BLOSSOM VIEWING AND EATING LUNCH WITH THIS LOT.

THERE WAS SCENERY LIKE THIS BACK IN POMPEII TOO.

HOLD ON A SECOND

YOU'LL FIGHT THREE BEASTS

TOMOR-ROW

RAOUL WAS AN AEDILE, A PUBLIC OFFICIAL, AND HE RAN THE GLADIATORIAL CONTESTS.

OH YEAH?

UMM, IF I LOSE I DIE

IF YOU FAIL, ALL OUR VALUED REGULARS WHO BET ON YOU WILL BE LOSING A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY

So don't lose

YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY. IF YOU WIN ALL YOUR MATCHES, EVEN YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM POVERTY

HE WAS ALWAYS SARCASTIC TO ME, AND AS A GLADIATOR, HE WORKED ME LIKE A DOG.

Hmmph

Not at all!

Does that mean you'll be giving up Serena?

Like a really bad manager in today's terms!

I GUESS HE WASN'T REALLY THAT SERIOUS ABOUT SERENA?

BUT NOW HE'S MARRIED TO ARIA-SAN

HE'D ALSO MAKE PASSES AT SERENA...

...I WONDER.

Woooow!

WELL, THEY WERE ALMOST BLOSSOMS INSTEAD OF CHERRY BLOSSOMS BUT THEY LOOK EXACTLY ALIKE

CHERRY BLOS-SOMS!

(にっこり)

AS MUCH AS THE NEXT GUY.

...LIKE TO DRINK?

SAEKI-SAN.

DO YOU...

DESPITE EVERYTHING, I GUESS SHINOGU-SAN IS HAPPY TO SEE SOME PEOPLE FROM HIS PAST LIFE..

SO HE JUST WANTED TO DRINK...

Let me join! let me join!

THAT WASN'T QUITE HOW I EXPECTED THAT TO GO.

FORGET HER AL-READY.
IF YOU KEEP DRAGGING THE PAST AROUND, YOU'LL NEVER MOVE FOR-WARD.
LORD SIRIX, WHO MIGHT THIS BE?
AWW, THERE THERE.
NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! IT'S ONLY SE-REHA FOR ME!
YUU-MA.
YOUR BY AGAIN?
IF YOU AREN'T DUMPED, THEN JUST GIVE IT UP ALREADY
I DIDN'T GET DUMP-ED.
...I WOULDN'T BE SO TORN...
IF YUUMA WERE A GIRL...
UH!
BEFORE IT WAS ABOUT YUUMA BEING A GIRL OR NOT, NOW IT'S SERI-ZAWA BEING DIFFERENT!
SHE'S LOLEUS!!
What did you see this time Kei-chan?
WHAT WAS THAT VISION JUST NOW?!
UGGAAHHHH!!
IT'S NOT THAT I APPROVE OF RAOUL AND ARIA'S RELATIONSHIP, BUT...
...I WONDER IF MAYBE THOSE TWO HAD FEELINGS FOR ONE ANOTHER IN THE PAST WHICH ALLOWED THEM TO BE UNITED IN THE PRESENT.
SAME FOR ME.

GIVE HER...
AH!
HOLD ON NOW.
SERIZAWA-SAN!
IT'S COOL, JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER
YOU BAS..
KEI-CHAN...!
...BACK TO ME.
EXCUSE ME.
...HE'S RIGHT, BUT...
YOU'LL NEVER MOVE FORWARD.
I'VE LOVED HER AND ONLY HER FROM THE PAST TO TODAY..
FORGET HER AL-READY.
COMING FROM YOU, THAT HURTS LIKE HELL...
I'M GONNA GO BUY SOME JUICE.
OH, I'LL GO WITH YOU, YUUMA-KUN.
HUH?
WHERE DID THEY GO?
LET'S GO, SERIZAWA-SAN
WHAT'S YOUR PROB-LEM?
WHAT SCHOOL DO YOU GO TO?
WHOA, YOU TWO SURE ARE CUTE.

SURE, SURE. YOU'RE SOOO STRONG.
WHAT THE? YOU'RE PISSING ME OFF.
WHY IS IT THAT YOU WERE REBORN A BOY?
IT'S SERENA, BUT...
...NOT SERENA.
SOOO?
I GOT STRONGER, HUH?
IF YOU WERE A GIRL, WOULD I BE SO TORN...?
SHINOGU, YOU ARE WASTED...
HEEEEEY! WELCOME BACK. YOU SURE TOOK YOUR TIME!
I MISS SERENA
I WANT TO GO SEE...
...THAT CITY WHERE ALMONDS BLOOM...
...LIKE THESE CHERRY BLOSSOMS.
THANKS, KEI-CHAN.
YOU ALL RIGHT, SERIZAWA?
SERENA'S MY ONE AND ONLY!
WASN'T ASKING!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU? HER BOY-FRIEND?
ぴくっ
ANYONE WHO TREATS ME LIKE A GIRL WILL BE DESTROYED.
ギクッ
YUUMA! GO A LITTLE EASY ON 'EM.
YUUMA!!
HEY, LET GO! YOU ASS-HOLE!
AH!

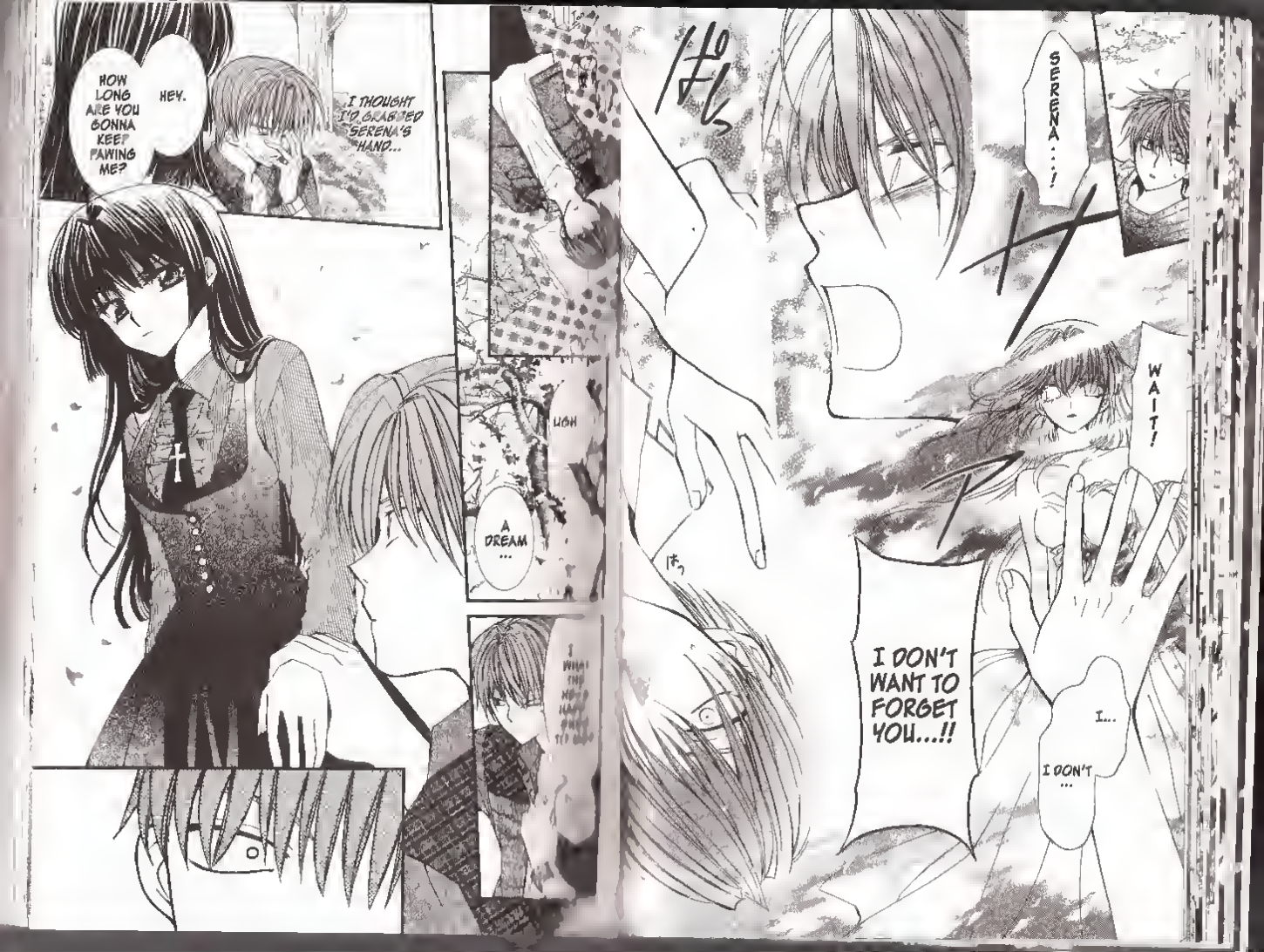
I WANT TO BE SURE OF...
...HOW MUCH I LOVE...
KEI-CHAN!
THAT'S ...!
ごくん
ごっくごっくごっくごっくごっくごっく
ALCOHOL...
KEIDAI?!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
SERENA...
SERE..
KEIDAI!!
キラキラ キラ
SERENA!
SERENA!!
EEYAHH!!
Hey!
KEI-CHAN! EVERYONE'S WATCHING! HOW 'BOUT YOU GET A ROOM?
!?

KEIDAI!
WHO ARE YOU CALLING SERENA? I KNEW IT! YOU WERE TWO TIMING...
SERENA!!
※△☆!!!
WOULD YOU LIKE A NEAD START ON YOUR NEXT LIFE?
SHINOGU! HE'LL REALLY DIE!
HUUHH?
SO MANY...
Over here!
SE.. SERENA ...
C-COULD IT BE...
THAT WHEN DRUNK...
...HE CAN'T TELL PEOPLE APART...?
STAY BACK!!
FATHERLY HUG ACCEPTANCE POSTURE
U-TURN!
I THINK HE KNOWS PERFECTLY WELL WHO'S WHO

SEEEEREEENAAA!!
Wooo!!
GAH!
WHO ARE YOU?
LET GO OF GRAND-PA!!
Pow!
AHH! HE'S MOVING ON TO STRANGERS!
Tch
I'VE GOT NO CHOICE...
DON'T HATE ME, KEIDAI!!
HUH...?
CHERRY BLOSSOMS ...?
NO, THEY'RE NOT.
THESE ARE...
SIRIX.

ALMOND BLOSSOMS...
JEEZ... FALLING ASLEEP BEFORE SUCH BEAUTY.
What a fool
RAOUL...
BAH, HE SHOULD HAVE JUST KEPT SLEEPING LIKE THAT FOREVER
MISS SMYRNA
ARIA.
HURRY AND WAKE UP. IT'S YOUR LOSS IF YOU DON'T ENJOY THIS SCENERY.
BIG BROTHER.
SIRIX...
...WERE YOU STILL SLEEPING?

EVERY-ONE..
.IS LAUGHING AND IS AS FULL OF ENERGY AS EVER
YOU...
...ARE THERE BY MY SIDE...
...BUT
YOU YOUR-SELF AREN'T THERE AT ALL...
I HAD..
...A DREAM...
...WHERE I'M TOGETHER WITH ALL OF YOU AMIDST THE FLUTTERING, FALLING FLOWERS AGAIN.
A SKY FULL OF ALMOND BLOS-SOMS.
SERENA
...WHERE WE GET TO SEE SUCH BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS WITH EVERYONE
NO

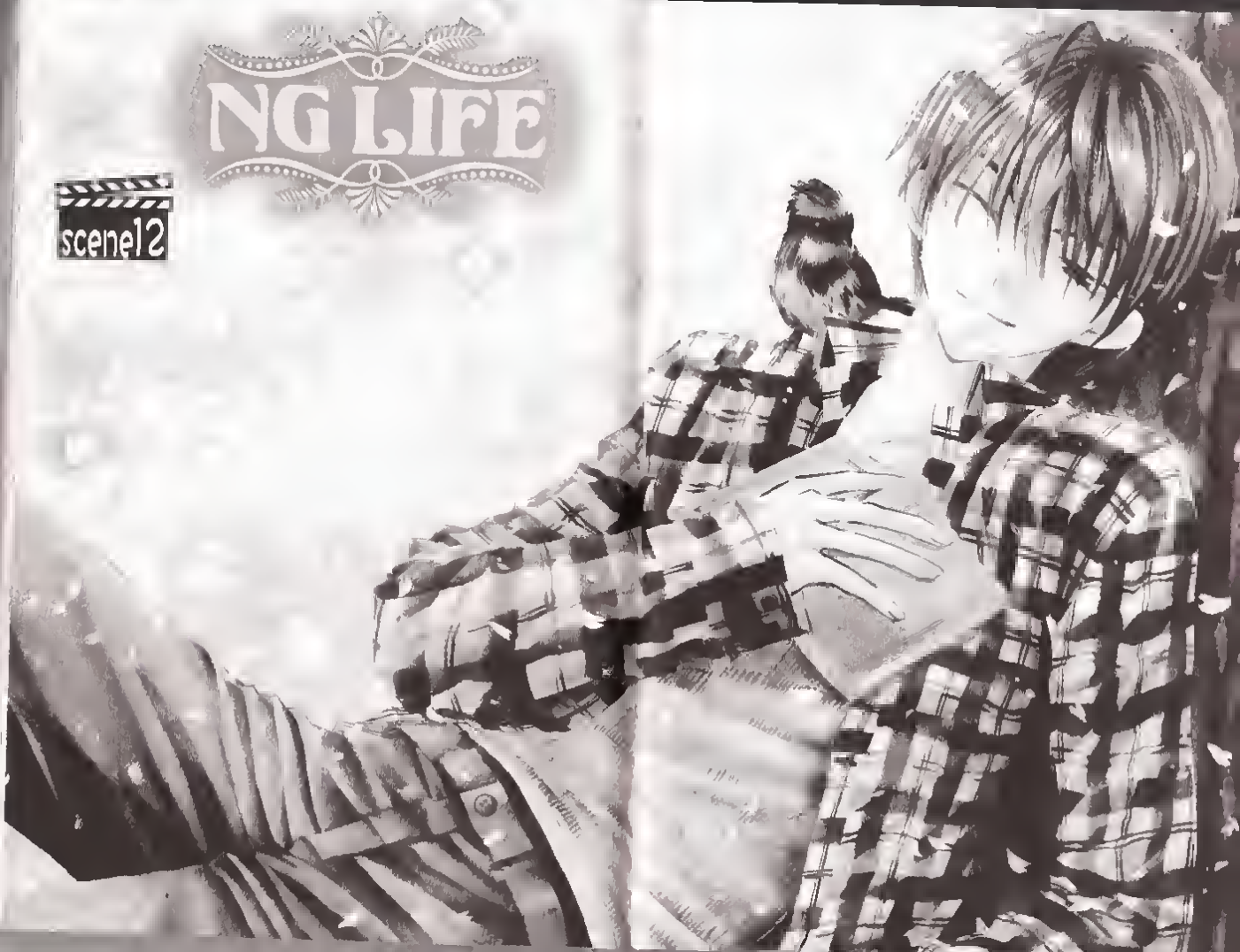

HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA KEEP PAWING ME?
HEY.
I THOUGHT I'D GRABBED SERENA'S HAND...
UGH
A DREAM ...
SERENA...!
WAIT!
I DON'T WANT TO FORGET YOU...!!
I...
I DON'T ...

KEIDAI!
WHAT ARE YOU MUMBLING ABOUT?
OR IS YUUMA CROSS-DRESSING?
AN ILLU-SION OF SERENA ..!
ER.. HUH? AM I...STILL DRUNK ..?
SO YOU FINALLY SNAPPED OUT OF IT, HUH?
TWO SERENAS...?!

SCENE 2 - END

NG LIFE

scene12



Serena?!

HM...?

EEEE! YUUMA-KUN, WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?! ♡

HEY, I'M OVER HERE!

.....

Seeee cute!!

THIS PERSON IS.. KEIDAI'S ...

YUUMA, YOU'RE WRO...

I'M..

...NIS EX-GIRLFRIEND.

I'M SEREHA.

Wha...?

Say whaaaaat?!

YOU HAD A GIRL-FRIEND, KEI-CHAN?!

When were you two going out?!

YOU REALLY HAVE A TYPE, DON'T YOU?

YOU TRASN! TRIPLE-TIMING, ARE WE?! (IN ADDITION TO YUUMA AND SERIZAWA.)

I DON'T KNOW NER I DON'T KNOW HER I DON'T KNOW NER I DON'T KNOW HER!!

AWWW DON'T HAVE TO GET EMBARRASSED

NO, I'M NOT EMBARRASSED, IT'S MORE LIKE, W-W-WHAT ARE YOU?!

WHAT AM I? WHY, SERENA OF COURSE!

DIDN'T YOU TELL ME HAD A GIRL THE NAME SERENA LOOKED LIKE ME

RIGHT, AND THAT'S YOU!!

KEIDAI, WNAT HAPPENED TO SERIZAWA-SAN?

WHAT HAPPENED TO YUUMA-KUN?

YOU TRASN! TRIPLE-TIMING, ARE WE?!

NOW, WHO'S FIRST?

WAI—
UH!
LET ME STAY A LITTLE WHILE.
A SEC...
AND IN EXCHANGE I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU WISH.
NOOOO! STOP DOING THAT WITH SERENA'S FACE!!
HEY.
KEIDAI.
GA-AHHH!!
TOO BRIGHT!!
I THOUGHT YOU'D BROKEN UP WITH THAT WOMAN?!
EH? A RUN-WAY...?
FOR REASONS I'LL NOT MENTION, I CAN'T GO HOME RIGHT NOW, SO QUIT YOUR BELLYACHING AND LET ME STAY AT YOUR PLACE.
Capisce?
DON'T JUST ADVANCE THE STORY ON YOUR OWN!
WE'VE GOT A LOT TO TALK ABOUT SO I'LL BE COMING OVER TO YOUR HOUSE.
EH?
...LOOK, JUST DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO SO OUR STORIES MATCH AND YOUR PARENTS BELIEVE WE'RE ACQUAINTANCES.
NOT BAD.
BUT HER FACE IS SERENA'S!
UM... WOULD YOU MIND LEAVING NOW...?
My family's totally suspicious
THE SAEKI RESIDENCE.

JU.. JUST AS EXPECTED FROM THE REAL THING... YOUR SOUL'S RADIANCE IS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT...
WHAT KIND OF CRAZINESS ARE YOU SPEWING?
AND WHO'S THIS?
YOUR CURRENT GIRL-FRIEND?
I'M A GUY.
Oh really? What a waste You're so cute too
Uh, you've got the same face
ANYWAY, I THOUGHT YOU'D BROKEN UP WITH SEREHA
WE'VE GOTTEN BACK TOGETHER.
CAUGHT BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE WITH DOUBLE SERENAS
SERI-ZAWA...
IS THAT TRUE?
YOU'RE GOING OUT?
HELL NO, WE'RE NOT GOING OUT DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA JUST TRUST ME SERIZAWA
OKAY.
WHA... WHAT THE HECK AM I GETTING ALL FLUSTERED FOR...?
OKAY, LET'S SET THINGS STRAIGHT ONCE AND FOR ALL.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
EH? IT'S NOT SEREHA?
SHE'S A LIAR.
AND A RUNAWAY TO BOOT.
HEY...
SO SHE'S NOT YOUR EX?!
THEN WHAT THE HECK IS SHE?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN 'WHAT'?! DON'T BE SO RUDE!
WELL, YOU'RE SUPER SKETCHY! KEIDAI, GO DUMP HER SOME-WHERE!
HOW DARE YOU!!
How strange Neither one of them is the same as the Serena in my heart
...REINA SAKAKI-BARA.

I'D GIVE YOU MY BLESSING AS A FRIEND.

That's way lucky.

IF ANYTHING, I'D TOTALLY SUPPORT YOUR DECISION I MEAN, IT'S A GIRL WITH SERENA'S FACE, AFTER ALL. ♡

AH, YOUTH...

Shingu and Daddy observing from inside the house

AH! SERIZAWA-SAN!

WOW, I'M

IF YOU MAKE SERIZAWA-SAN CRY, I WON'T FORGIVE YOU!!

WELL, ANYWAY! YOU NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT GIRL!

Huh? That's my fault?

KOIHAI! YOU MADE SERIZAWA GO HOME

LOOKS LIKE YOU ALL HAVE QUITE THE COMPLI-CATED RELATION-SHIP.

OH he

WHY WOULD SERIZAWA CRY?

I... I MEAN, BECAUSE IT WOULD BOTHER SERIZAWA-SAN...NOT ME...YEAH.

GASP!

WHA?!

I'M NOT HANDING KEIDAI OVER TO SOME RANDOM WOMAN WHO SHOWED UP OUT OF NOWHERE!!

Uh?

W--

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I WOULDN'T REALLY...

IF...

...BE BOTHERED OR... ANYTHING...

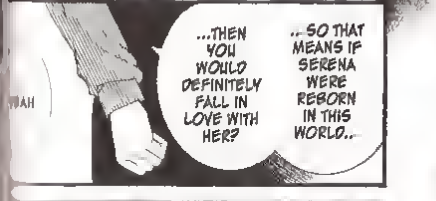
HUH?
I.. HAVE MEMORIES OF MY PAST LIFE..
...AND SERENA IS THE WOMAN WHO WAS MY WIFE OVER 1900 YEARS AGO.
...SERENA WAS...
...MY WIFE IN A PAST LIFE.
UHH, HO..
WHAT THEN? JUST A CRUSH?
JUST SPIT IT OUT.
HURRY
ALL RIGHT, I'LL TELL YOU.
.....
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, I KNOW ...
I'M SORRY FOR SAYING SOMETHING SO STRANGE... OUT OF THE BLUE.
WAIT... WAIT A SECOND, WAIT A SECOND.
ガチャ
うるるん
IT'S NOT MUCH TO LOOK AT, BUT PLEASE.
BUT I WANT TO BE WITH YOU.
The Power of Serena's Face!
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
YOU CAN'T I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR LIFE, BUT YOU NEED TO GO HOME.
HEY, WAIT!
TIME TO TOUR THE HOUSE!
THE SIRIX-MAN DEEP WITHIN!
THAT WOMAN ISN'T SERENA!!
UH, WELL, NOT EXACTLY. IT'S LIKE...
SHE WAS REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME, BUT NOT A GIRL-FRIEND.
SO LIKE, DID YOU REALLY HAVE A GIRLFRIEND WHO LOOKED LIKE ME?
WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
I have to watch out for you, hun?
APOLO-GIZE TO SERE-NA!!
SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
YOU GOT HOLES FOR EYES?!
Sirix Man Sweat!!
I WON'T DO IT AGAIN
Sirix Man Kick!

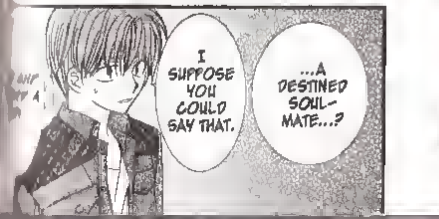
THAT JUST MAKES MY STOMACH TURN.
HUH?
A PAST LIFE?
DES-TINY?
WHAT GOOD ARE THEY?
IDIOT!!

I REALLY HATE
...THINGS LIKE THAT!!

SO YOU BELIEVE IN THIS STUPID DESTINY CRAP TOO?
JUST LIKE SOME OTHER IDIOT I KNOW.

WHEN I FIRST SAW YOU, IT REALLY SURPRISED ME.
Y-YEAH.
EVEN NOW, SHE'S SOMEONE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO ME.
I FIGURED THAT GIVEN HOW MUCH I'D WANTED TO SEE HER...
...I THOUGHT YOU WERE AN ILLUSION.
ENOUGH SO THAT I STILL DREAM OF HER.


...THEN YOU WOULD DEFINITELY FALL IN LOVE WITH HER?
..SO THAT MEANS IF SERENA WERE REBORN IN THIS WORLD..


I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY THAT.
...A DESTINED SOUL-MATE...?

I CAN CLEARLY DISCERN MY FRIENDS AND LOVER FROM THAT TIME.
IT'S TRUE, WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN BRING YOURSELF TO BELIEVE ME.
.....

.....SO THAT'S IT.

THAT'S WHY EVEN NOW YOU STILL HAVE FEELINGS FOR SOMEONE FROM YEARS AND YEARS AGO.
EH?

...DO YOU REALLY LIKE MY BIG SISTER THAT MUCH?
I CARE FOR YOU VERY MUCH AS A LITTLE SISTER
...I WAS BORN TO MEET HER.
IT WAS DECIDED A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.
... SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN ME ROMANTICALLY?
...
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
LIKE YOU TWO ARE DESTINED SOUL-MATES?!
Ugh!
THANKS TO YOU SAYING STUPID STUFF, YOU MADE ME REMEMBER THOSE AWFUL THINGS.
THEN GO HOME!
REINA...

YUP. IN KEIGAI'S BED.

YOU... STAYED OVERNI--...?

HMM... YOU'RE HERE

SERIZAWA-SAN...!

THEN I'LL GO HOME FOR THE DAY. SEE YA.

I SEE.

HE'S OFTEN ASLEEP, [illegible] DON'T THINK HE'LL [illegible] FOR A WHILE

WHY NOT?

IF HE'S ON HER MIND, SHE SHOULD GO FOR IT, NO HOLDS BARRED.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT-- DON'T GO SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT.

WHAT A PUSHY PACE [illegible] SHOULD [illegible] TRY [illegible] HARD

.....

DAMMIT

.....

SERIZAWA-SAN.

ARE YOU [illegible] ABOUT [illegible] GIRL? IT'S [illegible] RIGHT, SHE [illegible] READY ..

I JUST CAME TO PLAY.

WHAT'S UP? YOU'RE HERE SO EARLY.

MORNING, YUUMA-KUN.

I WAS CUT DOWN WITH SOME RIDICULOUS LINE...

...ABOUT NOT BEING HIS DESTINED SOULMATE.

AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS OUT THE DOOR!!

BUT I COULDN'T GO ON WITHOUT SAYING IT!

I WAS BORN TO MEET HER.

EVEN WITHOUT ANY HOPE!

I COULD SAY IT!

ALTHOUGH IT WASN'T SO EASY...

...I WORKED UP THE COURAGE.

BUT...!

IT WAS DECIDED A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.

DON'T LECTURE ME WHEN YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DOESN'T EVEN HAVE THE GUTS TO CONFESS YOUR FEELINGS TO HER.

TO SERIZAWA-SAN, I'M LIKE A LITTLE BROTHER!

I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO DO IT.

I CARE FOR YOU...

COULD YOU SAY IT SO EASILY IF IT WERE YOU IN MY PLACE?!

...AS A LITTLE SISTER... VERY MUCH.

IT'S RAINING.

AH.

I WONDER WHY SHE RAN AWAY FROM HOME..

OWWW.

SO THAT GIRL DID END UP SLEEPING OVER AFTER ALL.

Keida slept on his sofa in another room

HM? WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM YOU.

YOU DON'T EVEN LIKE KEIDAI.

GO HOME. AREN'T YOU JUST BEING A NUISANCE?

HMM... WHAT ARE THOSE TWO DOING?

ARE YOU TRYING TO BE THE "NICE GUY"?

THAT'S NOT VERY MANLY.

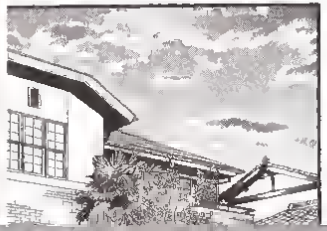
AND JUST WHO ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT HERE?

SERIZAWA-SAN WON'T WANT TO COME OVER!!

...I...
...DON'T WANT TO SHATTER OUR RELATIONSHIP.
IT'S IMPORTANT TO ME.
YUUMA...
KEEP THAT UP...
...THAT WIMPY LINE ABOUT HOW THEY'RE BOTH IMPORTANT TO YOU...
...AND THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW IT'S ALL FATE THIS, FATE THAT...
AND THEY END UP GETTING TOGETHER ...
...WHILE YOU'RE LEFT ALL ALONE. DON'T YOU SEE?!
WHAT ...
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU KNOW ABOUT US...

BUT...
...I'M ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN DESTINY
...AS FOR HAVING NO INTENT TO FALL IN LOVE...
.. THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.
...I JUST THINK HE'S STRUGGLING IN THIS SPACE BETWEEN DESTINY AND REALITY.
I THINK IT'S NOT THAT THIS PERSON DENIED YOUR FEELINGS FOR HIM...
I'M SURE IT'D BE EASIER ..
...IF I COULD LIKE YOU INSTEAD OF THE CURRENT SERENA.
WHO KNOWS?
EVEN IF I'VE GOT HER FACE, I'M STILL NO GOOD, RIGHT?
RIGHT NOW, I'M THE SAME AS YOU NOTHING'S TURNING OUT AS EXPECTED
BUT! SERENA'S THE ONE, RIGHT?!
LEMME GO.
KEIDAI...?! YOU JERK! YOU WERE LISTENING THE WHOLE TIME.
IF YOU SAID ANY MORE, YOU WERE GONNA CRY.
DID YOU COME TO TELL ME OFF?
WHAT ...
LIKE YOU COULD EVER UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL.
AM I SAYING?
WHAT
YOU AND HIM, YOU'RE BOTH THE SAME.
.. NO ONE WILL EVEN LOOK AT ME ANYMORE.
TO UNDER-STAND HOW I FEEL ...
NO MATTER HOW I SHOUT .
FROM THE GET-GO I WAS TOLD THAT HE NEVER INTENDED TO FALL IN LOVE WITH ME.

EVEN MEETING YOU HERE AGAIN MIGHT JUST BE ACT ONE OF A FUTURE THAT COULD STILL GO ANY NUMBER OF WAYS.



...WHAA ARE YOU SAYING THAT THIS BOY IS SE--

DON'T SAY IT!

LIFE IS NOTHING BUT THINGS YOU HADN'T PLANNED ON.

YEAH.
THANKS.
SO, YOU OKAY NOW?
AS THANKS FOR THIS TIME AROUND, I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING GOOD.
Lend me your ear
EH?
YOU'RE HARD TO PIN DOWN, HUH?
WELL, IF I FEEL LIKE IT, I MAY DROP BY AGAIN SOMETIME
I GUESS. YOUR BED'S HARD ANYWAY, KEIDAI.
And my clothes are soaking wet
WHY, YOU..
YOU'RE GOING HOME?
Changed
WHO'S A FALSE-RENA?!
YOU STILL HERE, FALSE-RENA?
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE IN PAST LIVES?
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T BELIEVE IN THEM. I JUST HATE THEM.
UHH...
.....I GUESS IT'S PRETTY TIRING TO HAVE THOSE MEMORIES, HUH?
YOU'RE A FALSE SERENA FALSE-RENA.
THEIR FACES AREN'T THE ONLY SIMILAR THINGS ABOUT THEM

"SEE YOU LATER...SIRIX."

scene13/ End

I drew about 70 or so scrapped draft pages for this episode (I barely made my deadline between me fixing stuff and my editor fixing stuff) and it was horrible. Though hardship does make for beautiful memories once it's all over and done with! (laughs) I'm so glad I was able to introduce a brand new character. I'm also so glad I get to draw so many girls in NG ♥But the main character's a boy so it's still not completely a girls' comic. I'd love to draw something with a girl as the main character again someday ~

Before I became a professional comic artist, I used to draw a lot of fantasy stuff involving angels and devils, or RPG-ish stuff where a hero slays the Demon Lord of so and so (laughs) I also did a lot of pencil-drawn comics back in my student days ♪

Since that genre isn't very Hana to Yume-ish, I don't get to draw them anymore but one day I'd like to draw some fantasy again

Thank you so much for all your warm letters and drawings! You don't need to enclose a stamp for me to respond to you! (Just please make sure to write your address clearly) I get a lot of requests for signatures, drawings or to write a personal message in your autograph book, but I'm so sorry I can't respond to all of them. I'm working my hardest on the series!

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK, SENSEI!!
DO YOU WANT ME TO KILL YOU THAT BADLY?!
KIWAME-SENSEI! IT'S LATE, AND YOU'RE BEING VERY LOUD!
YOU WERE SKETCHING THIS WHOLE TIME, MOM?
GRR! KIWAME-KUN, DON'T GET IN THE WAY. THAT WAS SUCH A GOOD POSE.
.....
Calm down sensei!!

NG LIFE
scene14

I REALLY SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN THAT GIRL'S CONTACT INFORMATION

HMMM.

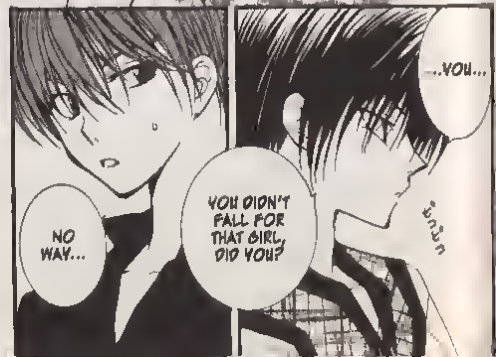
WHAT DID SHE SAY TO YOU BEFORE SHE TOOK OFF?

ARE YOU STILL GOING ON ABOUT HER?

My assistants.
Everyone is so wonderful and so talented. If I didn't have them, I'd never be able to finish things. Mikerun, Rurunga-san, Kyoko-san and my little sister. Thank you guys so much! And to Ryo Sakura-san, good luck with your own comic too!

My Work Companions
While I'm working, I tend to forgo sleep and just draw draw draw, so I often get very drowsy. Not to mention when I do sleep. I sleep a lot more than the average person, so my sleepiness is even worse than other people's. But what's dangerous about my brand of sleepiness is that I get this disease called the, "Okay, whatever, who cares" disease, so I have to make sure to take drastic measures before I get that way. By which, I don't mean a cold compress or an energy drink, but a drama CD or an anime video (DVD). And if the anime is a new one that's just started, that's no good either as I'll just end up watching it, so it has to be something that I can just listen to, that's easy to understand, and that is easy to get into and laugh about with everyone. Oh, and ones that have wonderful soundtracks as well. When an anime is on that I'm not so familiar with, I tend to stare at the TV screen instead of working, so I try to keep it to something I know very well.

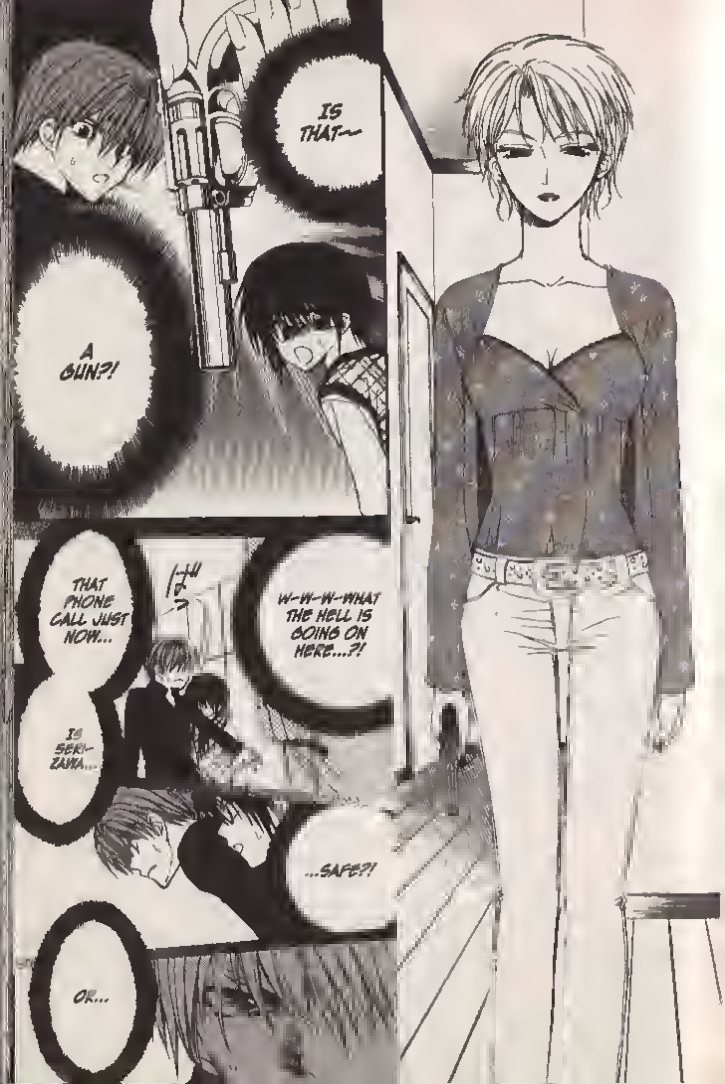
To be continued →



SHE'S GOT THE SAME FACE AS THE GIRL YOU BROKE UP WITH, RIGHT? IT'S WEIRD THAT YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FEELINGS FOR HER.
YOU'VE GOT THE SAME FACE TOO, YOU KNOW!
BUT NOW THAT HE MENTIONS IT, HE'S RIGHT.
...IT WASN'T ROMANTIC AT ALL....
...OR IS IT...
...YOU'VE GOT SOMEONE ELSE YOU LIKE?
...HM?
I SAID, SOMEONE YOU LIKE BESIDES SERENA.
...WHAT ABOUT SERIZAWA-SAN?
Thera
THERE'S NO ONE BESIDES SERENA!
UGH.
WHY SERIZAWA...
WHA--
WHA--
DESPITE HER HAVING THE SAME FACE, IT'S DEFINITELY MORE ABOUT THE SOUL BEING SERENA'S..
So bright!
ingalingaling!

...HUH?
UH...
UH...
...SERI-ZAWA?
SAVE ME...
HELLO?
KEI-CHAN.
AAHH!! AWKWARD TIMING!
SE-SERIZAWA?

!!
SERIZAWA?!
SI--
SIR!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?! WHAT ON EARTH...
SIR!
WHO...?
SERIZAWA!!


IS THAT~
A GUN?!
THAT PHONE CALL JUST NOW...
W-W-W-WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE...?!
IS SERI-ZAWA...
...SAFE?!
OR...

OR COULD IT BE?!

OH? KEI-CHAN!

AND YUUMA-KUN CAME OVER TOO

SORRY ABOUT EARLIER. THE BATTERIES IN MY PHONE JUST DIED ON ME.

Mid sentence

EH?

OH, ARE THESE YOUR FRIENDS, MII?

YEAH, THIS IS KEIDAI SAEKI-KUN AND YUUMA UJOH-KUN.

EH?!

WHAAAT?!

SERI-ZAWA.. THIS PER-SON..

HUH? OH, YOU HAVEN'T MET BEFORE?

THIS IS MY MOTHER.

NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M MARIHE SERIZAWA!

Gah!

Where am I?!

Dad returns

I CAN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH ANY OF MY ASSISTANTS!
NE PASSED OUT FROM WORKING ALL DAY AND NIGHT.
SO THE REASON YOUR DAD WAS COLLAPSED OUT IN THE ENTRYWAY...
HELP WITH A MANGA?
CALL ME MARINE-SENSEI. ♡
AND YOUR MOM HAD A GUN BECAUSE SHE'D GONE MAD FROM WORKING TOO HARD...
THIS IS A MODEL GUN I USE AS A REFERENCE FOR MY WORK.
It's a toy.
Whap
US?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE WITH TWO MANGAKA IN THE HOUSE?
But they were getting too close to my Mii...!!
IT MUST BE ROUGH.
don't quite get it but
YOU'RE SO LUCKY TO HAVE ASSISTANTS, MARINE-SAN.
IT SERVES YOU RIGHT, KIWAME-KUN. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BANISHED YOUR ASSISTANTS.
...BOTH OF THEM ARE WORKING FROM HOME BEFORE A DEADLINE AND IT'S GOTTEN PRETTY CRAZY...
YEAH. BECAUSE MY PARENTS ARE BOTH MANGAKA...

IF THEY CAN'T THINK OF GOOD STORY IDEAS THEY SQUIRM AND WRIGGLE ABOUT ON THE GROUND IN PAIN AND EVENTUALLY ATTEMPT TO FLEE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT RIGHT BEFORE A DEADLINE HITS (MOSTLY MY FATHER)...

...AND THEY FIGHT OVER ASSISTANTS.

AND FOR THOSE TWO, I MAKE MEALS, WASH THEIR CLOTHES, SOMETIMES LAY DOWN TONE...

SOUNDS PRETTY TRYING.

What's tone?

IT'S NOT SO BAD.

キラキラ

キラキラ

IT'S FUN TO WATCH EVERYONE FREAK OUT LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO, KEI-CHAN.

HEY NOW.

I TOTALLY SAW SERIZAWA AS LOLEUS JUST NOW.

...SO BASICALLY, MY DAD NEEDS ASSISTANTS...

WHAT DO YOU THINK? HE'LL PAY YOU.

I DON'T MIND, BUT...

And you don't need to pay me a thing

ME TOO!

Sounds like fun!

NO!!

I SAY NO! YOU'VE GOT TO BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL OF THAT BOY!

Refer to NG life scene 8 Daddy really hates Keikei

DAD...

ぴしっ

BUT I'M A TOTAL BEGINNER, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING...

KEI-CHAN, TRY AND DRAW ONE WITH THIS RULER AND PEN USING THIS AS AN EXAMPLE.

YOU CAN JUST LOOK AT IT AND DRAW A COPY TOO.

I HAVE HERE...

...SOMETHING CALLED A "BETA FLASH," A TECHNIQUE OFTEN EMPLOYED IN MANGA.

URRGH.

YOU *KNOW* THERE AREN'T MANY BEGINNERS WHO CAN DRAW SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

KEI-CHAN'S REALLY GOOD WITH HIS HANDS.

Good luck!

IF YOU DON'T WANT HIM, KIWAME-KUN, I'D BE...

キラーン

LOOK!

15 MINUTES LATER...

LOOK HOW GOOD IT IS EVEN THOUGH HE'S A TOTAL BEGINNER!

GO FAST AND WELL DONE!!

...WHEREVER SHE GOES THESE HOT SPRINGS-RAMPAGING OGRES ALWAYS ATTACK HER WHILE SHE'S BATHING. WHO KNOWS WHY, THOUGH...

IT'S A STORY ABOUT THIS MAIN CHARACTER GIRL WHO TRAVELS THE NATION IN SEARCH OF THIS FABLED HOT SPRINGS, BUT...

I SEE.

SO, WHAT SORT OF MANGA IS IT THAT YOU DRAW?

FANTASY SPA...?

FA SPA

OH, I KNOW THAT ONE.

THIS...

KIWAME SERIZAWA'S WORKROOM.

LET'S DO OUR BEST! I MAY NOT BE ENTIRELY RELIA-BLE, BUT...

...I'LL TRY MY HARDEST TO HELP OUT!

Uergh

THANK YOU!

WOW, YOU'RE REALLY IN FOR IT.

Ulugh

THE DEADLINE... IS TOMORROW, AND I STILL HAVE MORE THAN HALF OF IT TO INK...

BUT BEFORE WE BEGIN, MIND IF I TELL YOU ONE THING?

OF COURSE!

Tell me anything you want!

IF YOU MAKE A PASS AT MII, I'LL KILL YOU. GOT IT?

I ALREADY KNEW THAT.

WHY DOES ANYONE AND EVERYONE QUESTION MY RELATION-SHIP WITH SERIZAWA?

YEAH, WE'RE CLOSE, IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE BEST FRIENDS.

Aaahhh!
I WON'T LET YOU PASS!
Aaahhh!
I WON'T LET YOU!
Aaahhh!
I WON'T
ASSISTING BEGINS.
HMMMM.
BUT IT HAS NOTHING AT ALL TO DO WITH ROMANCE!!
THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT OF MY MANGA!!
IF SHE'S WEARING A TOP, SHE SHOULD BE WEARING THE BOTTOMS TOO!!
I MEAN, WHY DOES SHE HAVE HER PANTIES GRATUITOUSLY EXPOSED WHEN SHE'S FIGHTING?!
WELL... WELL, IT BUGS ME!
Have you never read a manga for boys before?!
It also bugs me that she's acting all shy when she's the one that stripped down!
HOW DARE YOU JUST REDRAW IT ON YOUR OWN!
WELL, I OBJECT!! AS A READER!
THAT'S WHAT THE READERS WANT TO SEE!

SCALES FALL FROM HIS EYES.

WHAT SORT OF WEIRD NERD TALK IS THIS?

THE MEN CAME TO A MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

I MEAN, SHE'S AT A HOT SPRINGS, SO...

...I THINK IT WOULD WAY MORE SEXIER IF SHE GOT ALL WET *WITH* HER CLOTHES STILL ON!!!

AHH, BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE I GOT MY MANGA CORRECTED BY AN AMATEUR... MAYBE I SUCK AFTER ALL.

OH NO! HE'S LOST HIS CONFI-DENCE?!

MANGAKA ARE DIFFICULT CREATURES.

I...

...REALLY LIKE YOUR MANGA, SIR.

MANGAKA LIVE TO HEAR THOSE WORDS.

I DON'T THINK SO.

LATELY MY BRAIN DOES SEEM TO BE AGING MORE RAPIDLY...

Knock knock
WHEN I WAS COLORING HIS HAIR BLACK, I WENT OUTSIDE THE LINES AND NOW HE'S GOT AN AFRO.
BY THE WAY, WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING ALL THIS TIME?
Yeaaaahhh! Let's do this thing!!
OH GOD! MAY I CONTINUE TO LIVE?!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK. WE'VE BROUGHT YOU SOME TEA.
OH, HEY YOU GUYS.
MARINE SERIZAWA'S WORKROOM

MIICHAN, ARE THESE YOUR FRIENDS?
INTRO-DUCE US!
OH, THESE ARE MY FRIENDS FROM SCHOOL ...
EVERY-ONE...
HOW'S MY DAD DOING?
THANKS GUYS! SORRY, I KNOW THAT'S MY JOB.
HE'S WORKING REALLY HARD. WE'RE WAITING ON HIM.
IF NOT, RETURN TO YOUR SEATS.
...ARE YOU DONE WITH YOUR WORK?
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'VE BEEN HAVING TROU-BLE GETTING THIS SKETCH RIGHT.
YES?
WELL, WE'RE GETTING IN THE WAY, SO...
JUST A MOMENT THERE.
YES, MA'AM.
WHOA, THIS PLACE FEELS LIKE A REAL WORKROOM

WHAT EXACTLY...

UH--

UM...

MODELING.

ENTWINED...

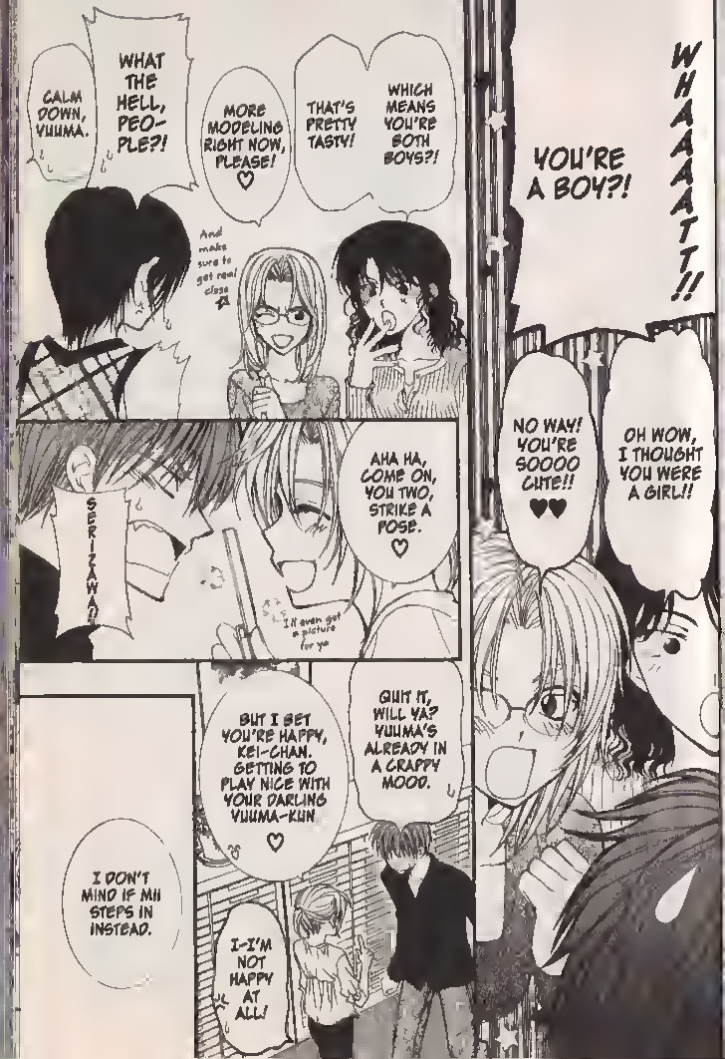
IT'S QUITE HARD TO DRAW A PICTURE OF TWO PEOPLE ENTWINED.

A POSITION LIKE THIS...

SERIZAWA, YOU'RE ENJOYING THIS, AREN'T YOU!

KEI-CHAN, WAY TO GO!

...IS BAD! THIS IS BAD!!
I keep seeing Sarena
GOOD-NESS! THAT'S NO GOOD.
GET...
...CLOSER.
WAIT, WAIT!!
LISTEN UP, ALL RIGHT? MY MANGA "GAME X DASH" IS...
...A STORY ABOUT THE FORBIDDEN ROMANCE BE-TWEEN A FEMALE BODYGUARD AND A MALE ASSASSIN! IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S A PRESENT-DAY ROMEO AND JULIET.
How's that?
SHOW ME THE SORROW OF BEING ATTRACTED TO ONE ANOTHER DESPITE BEING ENEMIES!!
Hee hee!
NO WAY!!
FIRST OFF..
...I'M A GUY, SO...


WHAAAATT!!
YOU'RE A BOY?!
NO WAY! YOU'RE SOOOO CUTE!! ♥♥
OH WOW, I THOUGHT YOU WERE A GIRL!!
WHAT THE HELL, PEO-PLE?!
CALM DOWN, YUUMA.
MORE MODELING RIGHT NOW, PLEASE! ♡
THAT'S PRETTY TASTY!
WHICH MEANS YOU'RE BOTH BOYS?!
And make sure to get real close ☆
AHA HA, COME ON, YOU TWO, STRIKE A POSE. ♡
SERIZAWA!!
I'll even get a picture for ya
QUIT IT, WILL YA? YUUMA'S ALREADY IN A CRAPPY MOOD.
BUT I BET YOU'RE HAPPY, KEI-CHAN. GETTING TO PLAY NICE WITH YOUR DARLING YUUMA-KUN ♡
I-I'M NOT HAPPY AT ALL!
I DON'T MIND IF MII STEPS IN INSTEAD.

TO PLAY THE LOVER'S PART, THAT IS.
WHAAATT?!
ALL I CARE ABOUT IS GETTING MY SKETCH DONE.
IT'S A LOVE SCENE, SO PUT LOTS OF PASSION INTO IT, OKAY? ♡
...I'LL PASS.
I DON'T WANT TO PLAY KEI-CHAN'S LOVER.
むか
OH, REALLY ...
I CAN DO THAT JUST FINE, THANKS I'LL BE TOTALLY AT EASE SO LONG AS I DON'T HAVE FEELINGS FOR MY PARTNER
COME ON, AS IF A SPAZ LIKE YOU COULD PORTRAY A GREAT PLAYBOY.
WHAT THE? THAT HURTS MY FEELINGS.

THEN I'LL BORROW SERIZAWA AS MY PARTNER SO YOU CAN GET YOUR SKETCH...

VERY WELL.

I can't continue working unless you do

ANYONE'S FINE, JUST DO IT, PLEASE?

HI! I'M SERIZAWA.

SERIZAWA'S FATHER.

SO WHICH ONE OF YOU IS THE GIRL?

EEEE! KIWAME-SENSEI HIMSELF?!

KIWAME-SENSEI! I CAN EXPLAIN..

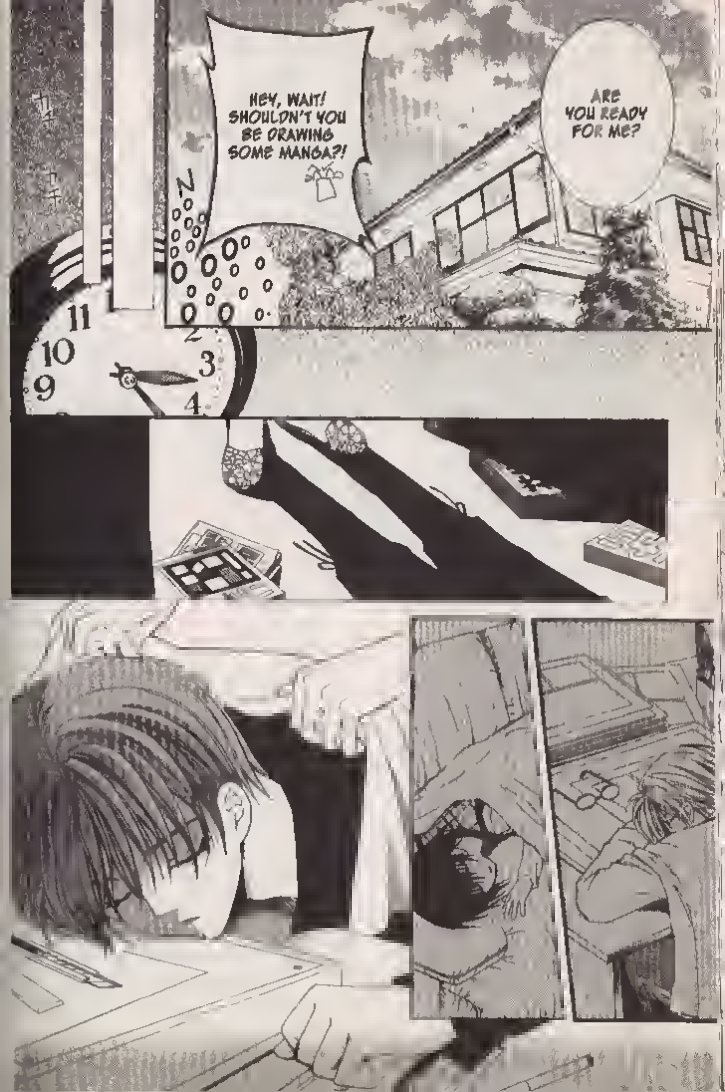
ALL RIGHT I'M A SERIZAWA TOO, SO I'LL STRIP DOWN AND PITCH IN FOR MY WIFE'S SAKE.

PLEASE, YOU DON'T NEED TO DO THAT, SENSEI!

What a miserable girl

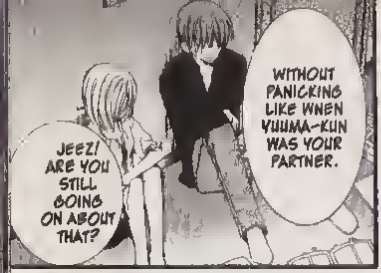
KIWAME-SENSEI!!

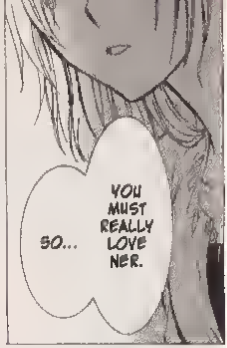
I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU HADN'T COME BACK, AND NOW I FIND THIS? A SERIZAWA PLAYING YOUR LOVER?


HEY, WAIT! SHOULDN'T YOU BE DRAWING SOME MANGA?!
ARE YOU READY FOR ME?

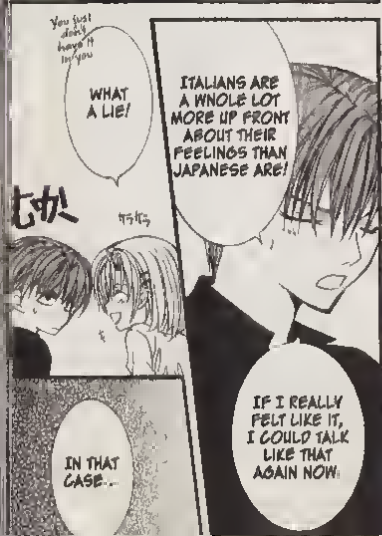
AH...
SERENA ...?
HM...?
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU.

...WERE YOU HAVING A DREAM ABOUT SERENA?
UH.
ER. YEAH LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE FINISHING UP FIRST THING TOMORROW MORNING
I SEE. THEN YOU'RE PRETTY ON TRACK THEN.
OH, NO... THANKS.
DID YOU GET ALL YOUR WORK DONE?
HEY, NO BRAGGING NOW.
SHE'S ALWAYS POPPING UP IN MY DREAMS
I'M NOT SURE. MAYBE I WAS.
I GET THE FEELING...
...THE ONE WHO I'M THINKING OF IS STILL...
...THAT IF I DIDN'T SEE HER IN MY DREAMS, I'M NOT SURE I'D BE ABLE TO GO ON.
OR IF YUUMA IS SERENA'S REINCARNATION
EVEN IF A GIRL WHO LOOKS LIKE SERENA SHOWS UP...


JEEZ! ARE YOU STILL GOING ON ABOUT THAT?
WITHOUT PANICKING LIKE WHEN YUUMA-KUN WAS YOUR PARTNER.


SO...
YOU MUST REALLY LOVE HER.

LOOK HERE...
...DID YOU REALLY TALK LIKE THAT?
WHEN WE WERE DOING THE PLAY BEFORE, WITH ME AS YOUR CO-STAR, YOU WERE SPEWING THESE CHEESY LINES SO EASILY, BUT...
WELL, IT'S JUST A LITTLE HARD TO BELIEVE.


You just don't have it in you
WHAT A LIE!
むかっ
ITALIANS ARE A WHOLE LOT MORE UP FRONT ABOUT THEIR FEELINGS THAN JAPANESE ARE!
IN THAT CASE...
IF I REALLY FELT LIKE IT, I COULD TALK LIKE THAT AGAIN NOW.

IF YOU HAD THE REAL SERENA AS YOUR PARTNER, YOU'D HAVE EASILY SWEET-TALKED HER?

...YOU WANT TO GIVE IT A GO?
WAIT A SECOND, KEI-CHAN.
I'M NOT KEI-CHAN. IT'S SIRIX.
WHA? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...
I... I GET IT. I GET IT!
NOW I'M MAD, AND I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT I CAN DO, SO YOU...
THIS IS ALL BECAUSE YOU MADE FUN OF ME.
I'LL BE SIRIX AND YOU PLAY SERCHA
PLAYING LOVERS.
THERE'S NO ONE AROUND TO SKETCH US, BUT WE COULD PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF...

SI... RIX.

HOW WOULD SERENA REACT IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS?

ER...IIIH...?

COME TO THINK OF IT... SERIZAWA SAID THAT...

SHE DIDN'T WANT TO BE MY PARTNER.

SO DOES SHE... ACTUALLY WANT TO...?

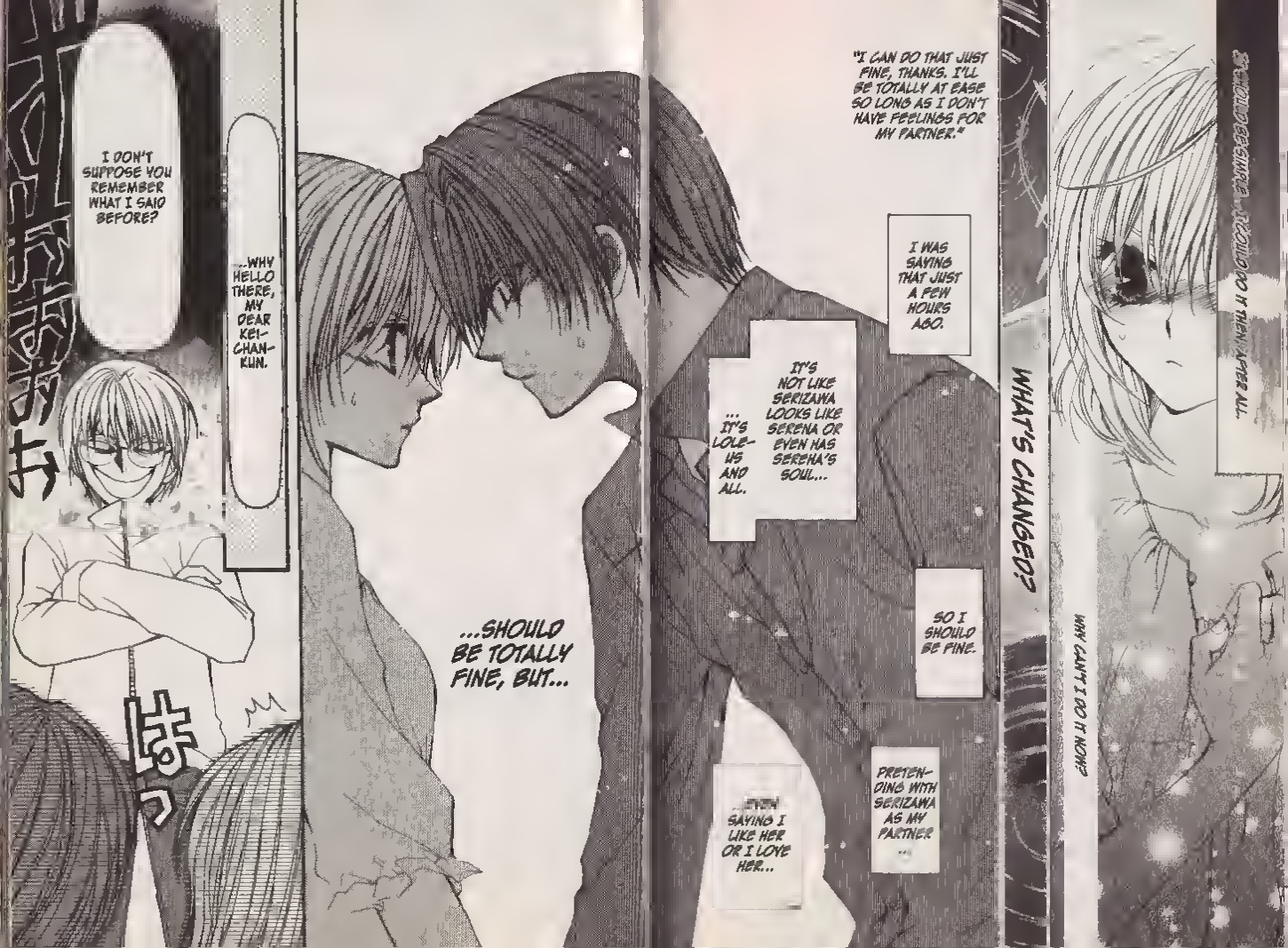
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING?

HEY.

WAIT, WE'RE JUST PRETENDING TO BE LOVERS, RIGHT?

BY THINKING OF SERIZAWA AS SERENA...

...I'LL SAY THOSE LINES LIKE BACK FROM THE PLAY.



WHY CAN'T I DO IT NOW?

SHOULD BE SIMPLE. I COULD DO IT THEN, AFTER ALL.

WHAT'S CHANGED?

"I CAN DO THAT JUST FINE, THANKS. I'LL BE TOTALLY AT EASE SO LONG AS I DON'T HAVE FEELINGS FOR MY PARTNER."

I WAS SAYING THAT JUST A FEW HOURS AGO.

IT'S NOT LIKE SERIZAWA LOOKS LIKE SERENA OR EVEN HAS SERENA'S SOUL...

...IT'S LOLE-US AND ALL.

SO I SHOULD BE FINE.

PRETEN-DING WITH SERIZAWA AS MY PARTNER...

...EVEN SAYING I LIKE HER OR I LOVE HER...

...SHOULD BE TOTALLY FINE, BUT...

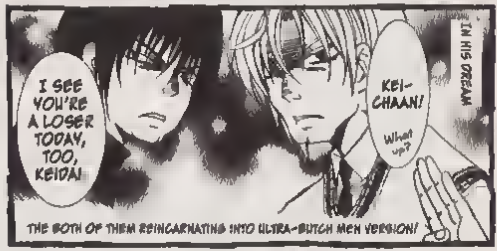
...WHY HELLO THERE, MY DEAR KEI-CHAN-KUN.

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU REMEMBER WHAT I SAID BEFORE?

はっ

NG LIFE
scene15

ULTIMATE NG LIFE.



* MORE "NG U-PANEL" COMICS, PRESENT LIFE VERSION, DRAWN TO PROMOTE THE NOTEBOOKS THAT CAME WITH THE PURCHASE OF *HANA TO YUME* MAGAZINE.

Special Thanks to
My editor, Hasegawa-sama. The editorial staff of Hana to Yume Comics production, Naato-sama. Thank you so much for everything!!
I'm so sorry for all the trouble I've caused you!

SERIZAWA!!

And one yakisoba bread

YE-ES?

SERI-ZAWA!

LOOK!!

To Shinogu Kagami-sensei

OH, THAT'S THE SIGNATURE BOARD FOR KAGAMI-SENSEI. IT'S DUE THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.

THE DAY AFTER TOMOR-ROW... THE DAY AFTER TOMOR-ROW.

HM?

WHICH MEANS THAT SHINOGU-SAN'S STUDENT TEACHING PRACTICE IS OVER THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW...!

ぱあああっ

YOU SEEM AWFULLY HAPPY, MY LITTLE BIRDIE.
FROM NOW ON I'LL BE A FREE BIRD UNFETTERED BY ANYONE.
IT'S BEEN A LONG ROAD... ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE'D BE HERE TWO WEEKS, IT FEELS LIKE HE'S BEEN BULLYING ME FOR A YEAR...
I DON'T HAVE TO WATCH MY BACK AT SCHOOL ANYMORE. I DON'T HAVE TO GET SMACKED EACH TIME I TALK TO YUUMA.
ドガッ!!
Hmph
IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT MY STUDENT TEACHING PRACTICE IS OVER.
DON'T WORRY. I WAS BORN TO MAKE YOU SUFFER.
SO, YOU'RE THAT SAD I'M LEAVING, HUH?
Please don't be born for that purpose.

WHAT?! WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT? AND TO CALL HER JUST PLAIN "SERIZAWA"?!

IT'S FUN TO WATCH.

When he talked to her before, he'd put on his fake smile and say, "Serizawa-san."

SERIZAWA LIKES THIS SIDE OF ME BETTER ANYWAY.

YUP.

YEAH, IT'S FINE.

ARE YOU COOL WITH SHOWING YOUR TRUE COLORS IN FRONT OF SERIZAWA?

REMEMBER? THE TEACHER WAS JUST TALKING ABOUT IT DURING GYM CLASS?

Weren't you listening?

THE SPORTS TOURNAMENT?

BY THE WAY, KEI-CHAN. HAVE YOU PICKED YOUR EVENTS FOR THE SPORTS TOURNAMENT?

WHEN DID THOSE TWO GET SO CLOSE...?!

DO VOLLEYBALL!

HMM, I WONDER WHAT TO PICK...

Now that you mention it, I vaguely remember hearing something about that.

...AND AT THE END OF THE DAY, THOSE TWO TEAMS WILL HAVE A SHOWDOWN, MIDDLE SCHOOL VERSUS HIGH SCHOOL, TO DECIDE THE ULTIMATE SCHOOL VICTOR

BOTH THE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION WILL HAVE A TOURNAMENT TO DETERMINE THEIR TOP TEAM

THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, EACH CLASS IS GOING TO BREAK UP INTO TEAMS FOR BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, TABLE TENNIS AND SOFTBALL

I'M GLAD THAT.

WHY?

BECAUSE I'M DOING IT.

..SERIZAWA'S A GIRL..

AND IF I WERE A BOY, WE'D BE ON THE SAME TEAM.

WHAT.

AHH! EVERY TIME I LOOK AT SERIZAWA I REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY.

FORGET IT!! SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH ME THEN.

THOUGH NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, WHAT'S WRONG WITH LIKING GIRLS?!

WHAT KIND OF YOUTHFUL DECLARATION IS THAT?

AAAHHH!! WHAT WAS THAT?! IT WOULDN'T MATTER IF SERIZAWA WERE A BOY! SHE'S LOVELY AND ALL. WHEN DID I START LIKING GIRLS SO MUCH...?!

SO VOLLEYBALL, NUN? I'LL COACH YOU! ♡ Shungu

NO, THANK YOU.

WE BREAK UP INTO TEAMS AFTER SCHOOL.

AFTER SCHOOL
EH?
WHA...?
...YOU GUYS ARE...
Just a sec
...THE ONES INTERESTED IN VOLLEY-BALL, HUH?
NOPE. TO BE HONEST I WAS HOPING FOR BASKETBALL ...
SOFTBALL FOR ME.
SO... SLEEPY ..
THE ENTIRE CONCEPT OF A SPORTS TOURNA-MENT IS LAME.
I HATE EXERCISE.

GO UJOH!
WOW, THEY REALLY COULD NOT CARE LESS, HUH, KEI-CHAN?
I GOT THE LAZY-ASS TEAM!!
HMP
W-WELL, FOR STARTERS, LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE TO PICK A TEAM LEADER!
YOU CAN DO IT, SAEKI.
YOU'VE GOT GOOD REFLEXES AND ALL
I second that.

ぽーっ

SUPER COOL...

ダーン

YOUR COUSIN'S A LITTLE TOO COOL THERE.

THAT'S A BOY. By the way

CUTE...

WHOA, AWESOME! IS THAT A MIDDLE-SCHOOLER?!

NO WAY... MY TEAM IS... Falling apart

YOU GUYS ARE SO GONNA TAKE THE TOP SPOT IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION, NUH? AND IF EVERYTHING GOES WELL, YOU MIGHT FACE KEI-CHAN IN THE FINALS.

YUUMA-KUN, YOU WERE SO COOOOL! ♡

YOU WERE WATCHING.

THAT'S MY YUUMA FOR YA!

Well of course! We are related after all

KINDA.

YOU'RE DOING VOLLEY-BALL TOO?

YUUMA
...WELL, I'M STILL PRACTIC-ING, SO GO HOME WITHOUT ME.
HEY, WAIT ...
HUH...?
HMM...
IN ANY CASE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO HOME WITH YOU FOR A WHILE.
EH?
EH...?
OH, SORRY
5

WHA ..WAS THAT SUCH A BIG DEAL?

AHA HA HA! THAT'S THE BIG SCENE I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!!

KEI-CHAN, PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!

SERENAAA?!

Goodbye

AH, BUT WE WENT TO SCHOOL SEPARATELY THIS MORNING.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, HIS SPIRITS HAVE BEEN ODDLY DOWN LATELY...

Yuuma can get that way, so at first I didn't think much of it

MORE LIKE, ALL OF A SUDDEN HE PUT UP HIS GUARD.

NO, THAT SHOULDN'T BE IT...

ARE YOU TWO FIGHTING?

ONCE HE FOUND OUT YOU'D BE DOING VOLLEYBALL, HE PROBABLY THOUGHT, "I'LL KILL THAT MISERABLE KEIDAI WITH MY SPIKE FROM HELL!!"

NO, THAT'S WHAT *YOU* WOULD DO.

YUUMA PUTS HIS ALL INTO TOURNAMENTS LIKE THIS.

I WONDER IF I DID SOMETHING TO MAKE HIM MAD

THAT'S IT.

HUH?

Continued Work Companions

So the anime that I treasure the most are my beloved Miyazaki movies ♥ Listening to Laputa through my headphones is especially wonderful ♥ (I've seen the movie itself over 40 times)

The other things I watch are the anime that I used to really get into when I was younger They bring so many memories back and really get us talking ♪

For example, Saint Seiya and Sailor Moon were so much fun (laughs)

(Maybe kids nowadays don't know them?)

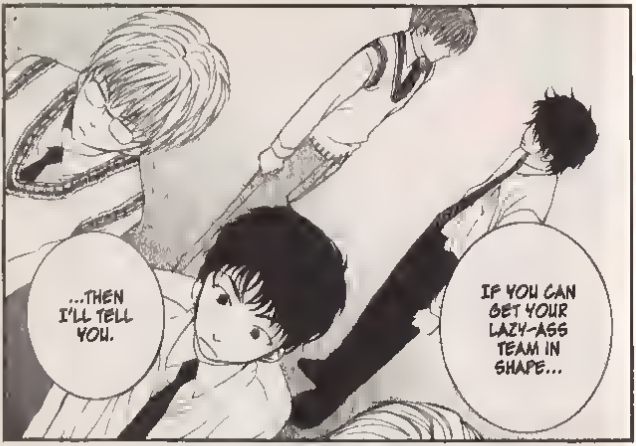
Oh and One Piece ♥ (This one's still going though)

I rent a bunch of anime in addition to those staples and listen to them as I draw

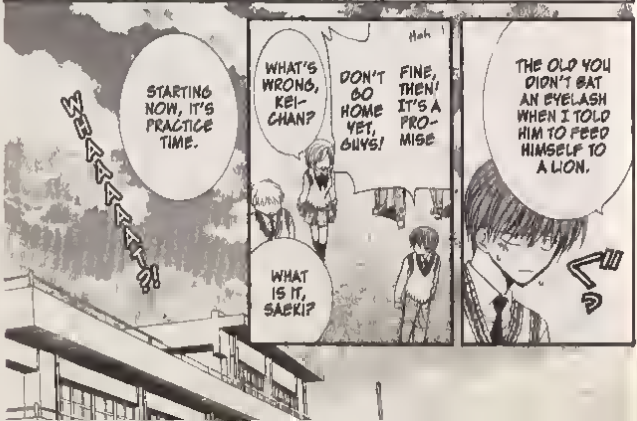
What I'm desperately seeking right now is the OAV series for "Glass Mask " where Maya-chan is played by Megumi Ogata-san and the purple roses man is Jurota Kosugi-san (that's the voice actor) It's really hard to find It really bugs me! (laughs)

Hmm I wonder if there's anything out there that I can enjoy with just sound alone!

...YOU'D STILL STAND IN THE WAY.
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS... FOR A LONG TIME NOW.
...AND I WERE BY HER SIDE JUST LIKE IN MY PAST LIFE...
EVEN IF YUUMA WERE A GIRL...
THE TRUTH IS, YOU MADE HER UNHAPPY.
SO NO MATTER WHO YUUMA LIKES, I'LL BE WATCHING OVER HIM.
BUT TIMES HAVE CHANGED
Yes
DO YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU?
IT'S A LITTLE LATE FOR THAT NOW, ISN'T IT?
Okay, go home go home!
Sure
Then, can I decide the team name?
...YOU DIDN'T APPROVE OF ME.
NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED...
WHY DID YOU HATE ME SO MUCH...?
WHAT SHOULD I HAVE DONE FOR YOUR APPROVAL...?
LET'S SEE.


...THEN I'LL TELL YOU.
IF YOU CAN GET YOUR LAZY-ASS TEAM IN SHAPE...

HO HO. OH, IS IT?
What was that?
WHAT? ME?! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!


STARTING NOW, IT'S PRACTICE TIME.
WHAAAAAAT?!
WHAT'S WRONG, KEI-CHAN?
WHAT IS IT, SAEKI?
DON'T GO HOME YET, GUYS!
Hah
FINE, THEN! IT'S A PRO-MISE
THE OLD YOU DIDN'T BAT AN EYELASH WHEN I TOLD HIM TO FEED HIMSELF TO A LION.

Sigh

NO GOOD. THEY WON'T HEAR OF IT.

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT A STUPID SPORTS TOURNAMENT?

IT'S GONNA BE WAY EASIER TO JUST LOSE RIGHT OFF THE BAT.

IF THIS WAS JUST ME, I'D FIGURE SOMETHING OUT, BUT...

THIS IS HARD!

NO -- IT'S BECAUSE IT'S HARD. THAT'S EXACTLY WHY IF I CLEAR THIS HURDLE, SHINOGU-SAN MIGHT APPROVE OF ME, EVEN A LITTLE

DO SOMETHING! THE DAY OF THE SPORTS TOURNAMENT IS ALSO SHINOGU-SAN'S LAST DAY.

DON'T I WANT TO PART ON GOOD TERMS?

Plans to make this parting stick

THE NEXT DAY.

NOW, I'M GONNA THROW SOME TOSSES-- EVERYBODY TAKE TURNS SPIKING IT.

くるっ

KAY?

ぐ ぐ

ROMANCE DISCUSSION SESSION

SO LIKE, ME AND EIKO ARE GOING OUT NOW, BUT I JUST CAN'T GET MY EX OUT OF MY HEAD.

AHH... I TOTALLY UNDER-STAND, MAN...

Yup, yup. It's really hard not being able to forget your ex.

WHY DON'T YOU GET BACK TO-GETHER?

IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE, Y'KNOW?

WHAT THE HELL ARE WE DOING?!

Huh?!

Whoa!! But we were finally starting to have some fun.

IT'S PRACTICE TIME! PRACTICE!

HO HO NO.

SHINOGU-SAN!

LOOKS LIKE YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE.

WE'RE FINE. WE'RE JUST ABOUT TO...

AND SO, AN HOUR LATER.

ARAO! BASKET-BALL'S NOT THE ONLY SPORT OUT THERE!

TAKE THIS PASS!

KAI, THINK OF THIS AS A SOFTBALL, AND HIT IT!

OONO! I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT IF YOU TRY!

MIZUTANI! DON'T GO HOME!!

HIRATA! QUIT SLEEP-ING!

WHAT AM I GONNA DO? I'LL NEVER GAIN HIS APPROVAL AT THIS RATE...

Just got here

SURE SEEMS THAT WAY.

I've been thinking, but

THAT GUY REALLY GETS A KICK OUT OF PICKING ON SAEKI, HUH?

バラバラバラ

THIS AIN'T OVER YET!!

NO CHANCE NO CHANCE NO CHANCE!

Aha ha ha ha

HEY! WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!

YOU LOT ARE MIDDLE-SCHOOLERS, SO MAYBE YOU SHOULD WATCH HOW YOU TALK TO US.

HITTING US WITH A BALL WITH NO WARNING...

YUUMA?!

YAMATO? YAMATO?

WHAT'S WITH THEM?

Kids!

ERK!

THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHO'S IN MIDDLE SCHOOL OR HIGH SCHOOL!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET IN OUR WAY, JUST PISS OFF!

NO GETTING IN YOUR WAY WE JUST WANNA PRACTICE TOO.
...THEN LET'S PLAY.
Ujoh snapped!
I WONDER IF YUUMA'LL BE ALL RIGHT...
DAMN THOSE PUNKS! I'M GONNA SMACK SOME SENSE INTO 'EM...
YOU CAN'T! YOU'RE A STUDENT TEACHER!
HE DID IT!
GO YUUMA-KUN!

NICE JUMP...
...FOR A SHRIMP!
BLOCK IT!!
UJOH!
RIGHT IN THE FACE...!!

PLAYER...
...SUBSTI-TUTION.
YUUMA-KUN!
UJOH!!
UGH...
DID I HURT YOUR CUTE LITTLE FACE?
MY BAD, MY BAD.
YOU BASTARD. THAT WAS ON PURPOSE ...!

ON YOUR KNEES
LET'S MAKE IT HIGH-SCHOOLERS VS. HIGH-SCHOOLERS.
AND IF YOU LOSE, YOU APOLOGIZE TO THEM
WHO'RE YOU...
...my Youma's face!
How dare they...
BRING IT!!
THEY DESERVE CERTAIN DEATH!
I'LL PLAY TOO.
SHINOBU-SAN...
THOSE GUYS COMMITTED ONE OF THE GRAVEST SINS IN THIS WORLD.

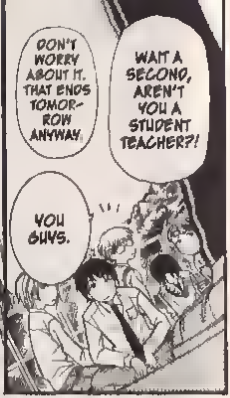
SAEKI-KUN

AND NOW YOU DODGE...

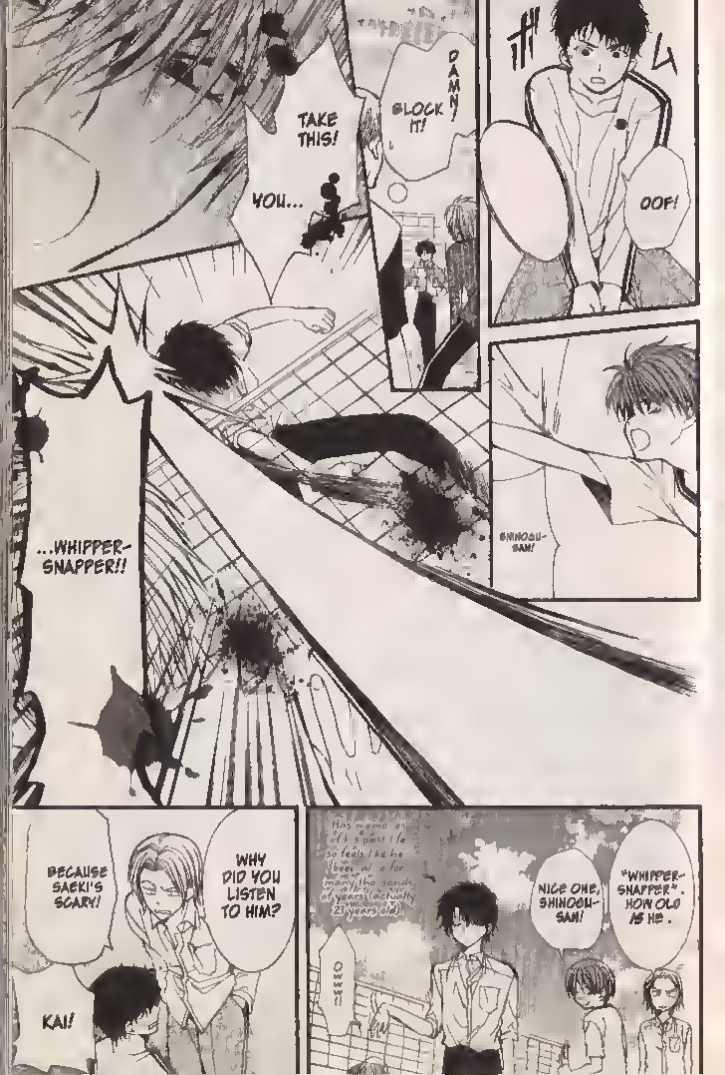
YOUR CHARACTER...

SURE HAS CHANGED.

...AN ORDER FROM YOUR LEADER?!



SOMETHING'S GOING DOWN ON THE VOLLEYBALL COURT!
OUTSIDE!
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM ANYWHERE.
WHERE IS HE?
KAGAMI-SENSEI'S TIME STUDENT TEACHING ENDS TOMORROW.
So sad
AWW!
HEY!
LET'S GO OUTSIDE!
WHAAAT? KAGAMI-SENSEI AND SAEKI-KUN ARE PLAYING VOLLEYBALL?!
EH?
HERE COMES OUR CHANCE!
KAI!!


DOF!
SHINOGU-SAM!
DAMN!
BLOCK IT!
TAKE THIS!
YOU...
...WHIPPER-SNAPPER!!
"WHIPPER-SNAPPER". HOW OLD IS HE.
NICE ONE, SHINOGU-SAM!
OWWW!!
WHY DID YOU LISTEN TO HIM?
BECAUSE SAEKI'S SCARY!
KAI!

HEY! HOLD ON A SEC. I COULD'VE DONE THAT...
OH... OH YEAH? I GUESS...
THANKS!
I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU!!
LEAVE THE REST TO ME!!
ARAO! GOOD JOB!
MIZU-TANI! KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL!!
PLAYING LIKE THIS...
...IS KINDA FUN.

EVERYONE COMBINING THEIR STRENGTH...
...AND GETTING ALL EXCITED...
DO YOU SEE?
...YEAH.
LOOK, KEI-CHAN AND THE OTHERS ARE AVENGING YOU.
ARE YOU OKAY, YUUMA-KUN?
EVEN IN POMPEII I NEVER EXPERIENCED ANYTHING LIKE THIS.
AND EVEN SHINOBU-SAN, WHO SHOULDN'T APPROVE OF ME...
...IS PASSING THE BALL TO ME.
KEIDAI!

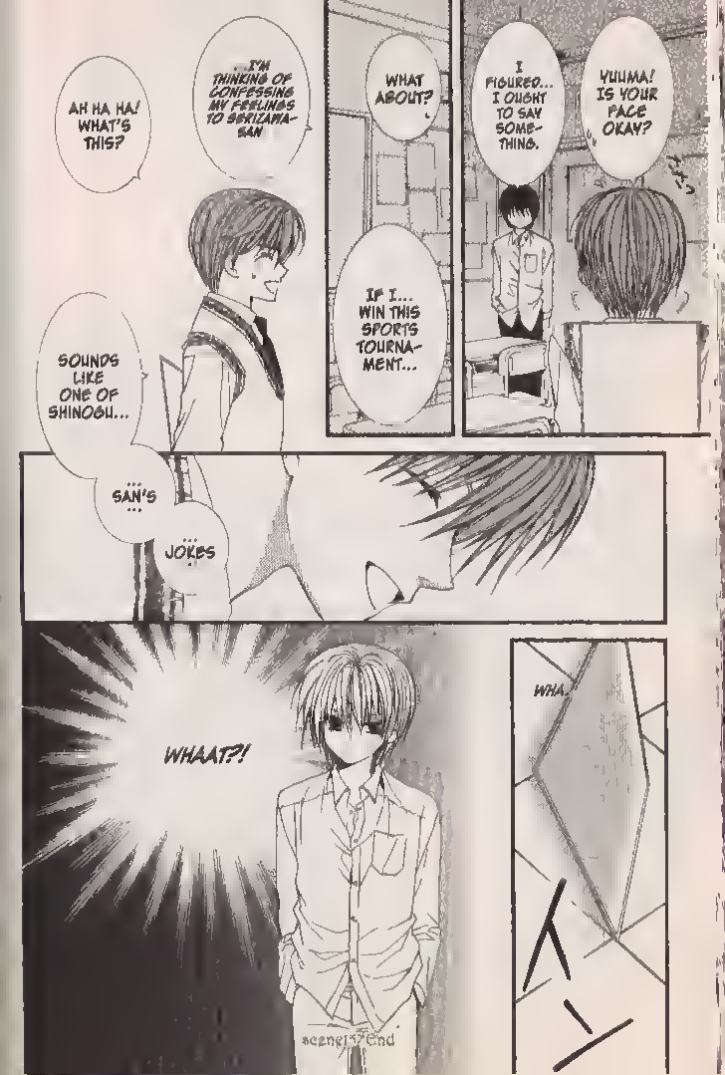
AH...!
THEY WON...
That felt awesome!!
Saeki!
Mm hmm
I was there I saw
That last one was all me!
SHINOBU-SAN!!

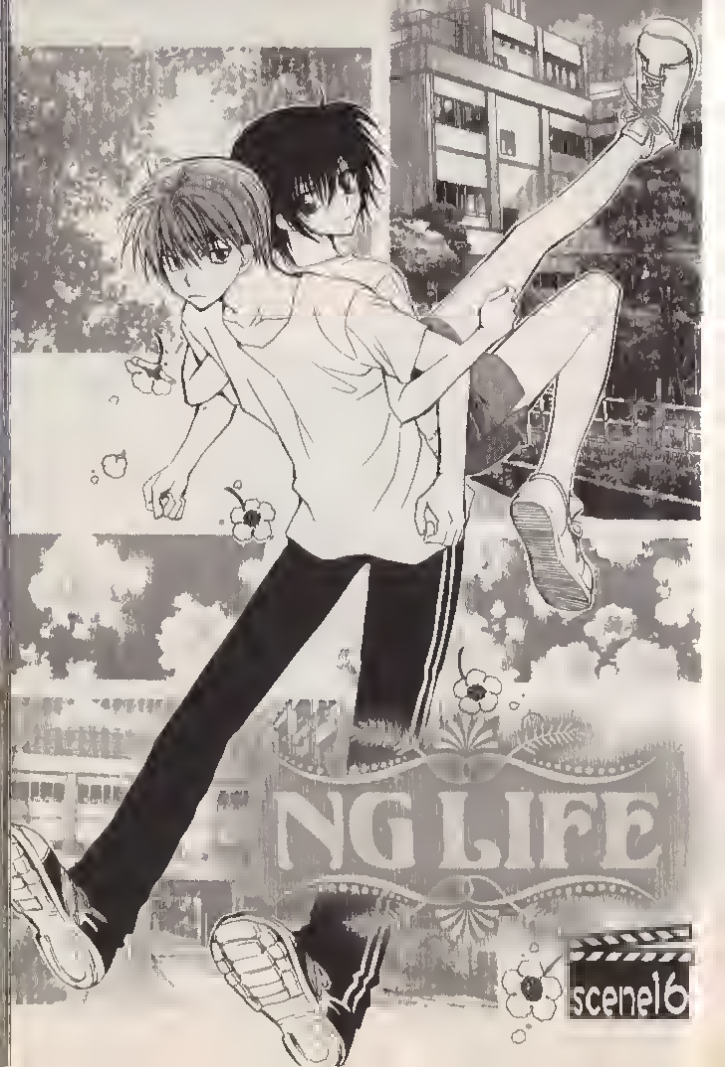
YOU'VE REALLY...
MISS SMYRNA!
...GONE TOO FAR AGAIN...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
SERENA WILL BE WORRIED SICK.
SHINDOU-SAN!
EVERYONE ON MY TEAM LISTENED TO ME
IT'S NOT PERFECT YET, BUT...
DO YOU...
...APPROVE OF ME? JUST A LITTLE?

YOU IDIOT.

I HATE YOUR GUTS.

AND IT'S NOT LIKE WE DON'T KNOW EACH OTHER...
So I better put my best foot into it.
Hmm
IF IT'S SOMETHING HALF-ASSED, SHINOBU-SAN WOULD GET MAD...
WHAT'LL I WRITE?
KEI-OAI.
WHAT AM I GONNA DO? I WROTE IT IN PEN.
So not what I was going for.
OH... OH CRAP IT CAME OUT SOUNDING LIKE A LOVE CONFESSION.
HIS VOICE WHEN HE SAID "YOU IDIOT" SEEMED GENTLER, SOMEHOW...
SO I'LL LET IT PUMP ME UP JUST A LITTLE.
ALTHOUGH HE'D DENY IT HIMSELF.


YUUMA! IS YOUR FACE OKAY?
I FIGURED... I OUGHT TO SAY SOMETHING.
WHAT ABOUT?
IF I... WIN THIS SPORTS TOURNAMENT...
...I'M THINKING OF CONFESSING MY FEELINGS TO SERIZAWA-SAN
AH HA HA! WHAT'S THIS?
SOUNDS LIKE ONE OF SHINOGU...
...SAN'S...
...JOKES
WHA.
WHAAT?!
scene13 End


NG LIFE
scene16

...I'M THINKING OF CONFESSING MY FEELINGS TO SERIZAWA-SAN.

IF I WIN THIS SPORTS TOURNA-MENT...

Please send any thoughts or comments about this manga to the following address

Mizuho Kusanagi
c/o TOKYOPOP Inc
5900 Wilshire Blvd
Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA
90036

WHA...?

.....

IF I WIN MY NEXT GLADIATORIAL MATCH, I'M PROPOSING TO LOLEUS!!

WHAT?! WE'RE FIGHTING OVER LOLEUS?!

DOES THAT MEAN WE'RE GETTING DIVORCED?!

AND THUS CONCLUDES HIS FLIGHT OF FANCY

NO NO NO NO...

WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS...?

...I HEARD YOU GUYS EARLIER, WHEN WE WERE OVER AT THE SERIZAWAS' HELPING OUT WITH THE MANGA.

YOU WERE MAKING A PASS AT HER...

ぼんっ
THAT?!
HOW COULD YOU, LORD SIRIX?! WAS IT ALL JUST A LIE WHEN YOU SAID I WAS THE ONLY ONE FOR YOU?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D TRY TO SEDUCE LOLEUS!!
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK, SERENAAA!!
I'M SO POPULAR!
ANOTHER FLIGHT OF FANCY.
Say some thing Loleus!
IT WASN'T THAT.
SERIZAWA WAS MAKING FUN OF ME SO I KINDA GOT MAD AND
YEAH, THAT'S ALL IT LOOKED LIKE IT WAS, BUT...
I ALWAYS SEE THE TWO OF YOU WHISPERING TO EACH OTHER ABOUT SOMETHING I'M NOT A PART OF
...THAT... THAT'S..

The Sports Tournament Back when I was a student I was terrible at them To make a long story short, I was just awful at that stuff, so whenever I had to play as team with other people, I caused them so much more trouble than actually helping out to the point that I literally wanted to run away (And I might have actually done such a couple times cough cough.)

As for sports that you could do by yourself like marathon training or swimming, it's not that I was great at them, but even if I sucked I didn't have to worry about making other people suffer with me, so I liked doing them I don't hate moving my body. I like taking walks or jogging

I also like to watch sports ♥ I tend to follow the latest fads, so I get together with friends and watch the most popular athletes or sporting events at the time, and the Olympics Sports festivals and national high school baseball tournaments are particularly awesome!! Ahh, youth is so bright!! (laughs) I can get all misty eyed about it now

THAT'S WHAT I FELT, ANYWAY, BUT TO YUUMA...
YUUMA WAS THE ONE PERSON I NEVER WANTED TO MAKE CRY.
STUPID ME.
...REALLY HURT YUUMA WITHOUT KNOWING IT?
...OKAY.
WHY NOT?
WAIT! ARE YOU SERIOUS?
WHAT? HOLD UP!
I'LL CHEER YOU ON.
DO YOUR BEST!
SERIZAWA IS MY FRIEND.
SO IF THINGS HAPPEN TO WORK OUT BETWEEN YOU TWO...
...I THINK IT WOULD BE A GOOD THING.

...SO I HOPED, GOING IN TO THE SPORTS TOURNAMENT.
IT WAS 33°.
THE SUN BEAT DOWN MERCILESSLY.
ぐで—
GIVEN THE UNEXPECTED AND ABNORMAL WEATHER, MANY PARTICIPANTS SUCCUMBED TO SUNSTROKE AND HEATSTROKE AND ENDED UP DROPPING OUT.
IN THE MIDST OF THESE UNFAVORABLE CONDITIONS...
I DON'T WANT TO HURT YUUMA
I DON'T WANT TO GET IN HIS WAY.

SOMEHOW MY TEAM KEPT WINNING MATCHES.
GAME SET! TEAM LOSER K-CHAN WINS!!
YAY!
WHERE DID THIS NEW PASSION FOR SPORTS COME FROM?
WE MIGHT BE, LIKE, GENIUSES, HUH?
When up until yesterday they no drive at all..
THIS IS BAD, MAN. I TOLD YUUMA THAT I'D CHEER HIM ON AND ALL...
FIRST OFF... WHAT'S UP WITH OUR TEAM NAME?
WHO CAME UP WITH IT?!
WELL, SINCE IT'S K-CHAN...
...WHO ELSE COULD HAVE, KEI-CHAN?
...YET AT THE RATE WE KEEP WINNING, IT'S GONNA SEEM LIKE I'M TRYING TO FACE OFF AGAINST HIM IN THE FINALS!
YOU'RE DRAGGING US DOWN, HONORABLE LEADER OF TEAM LOSER K-CHAN
What's up with that?
Hiya!
IT WAS ME!

WHY--YOU--!!
COME ON! IT'S A SOOTHING NAME
WHY DID YOU COME UP NOT EVEN WITH IT? A MEMBER OF THE TEAM.
THEY GAVE ME PERMISSION!
'LOSER K'... SOUNDS FINE, RIGHT?
WHO CARES ABOUT OUR TEAM NAME ANYWAY?
More importantly it's hot as hell
TURN ON THE A/C OUTSIDE!
I KNEW DEEP DOWN THEY WERE STILL SLACKERS.
WHAT?! YOUR HOUSE HAS A DEFAULT A/C TEMPERATURE OF 18°?!* YOU'RE THE ONE TURNING THE EARTH INTO THIS MESSED-UP PLANET?!
BUT TEAM K-CHAN IS REALLY DOING WELL AT THIS RATE YOU'LL BE HEADING INTO THE FI...
FIGHTING BECAUSE OF THE HEAT
NALS
SERI-ZAWA!

...IS IT GETTING HOT IN HERE?
YOU SHOULDN'T PUSH YOURSELF SO HARD.
OKAY.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
I'M SORRY. IT'S JUST SO RIDICULOUSLY HOT.
YOU BETTER LIE DOWN!
OH, NOOO!! YOU MIGHT HAVE HEATSTROKE!
AAAHH!
HUH?!
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK, YUUMA, IT'S NOT! I~
OH, ARAO? YOU SAID IT'S HOT?
EEYAH!! THAT'S RIGHT! IF YUUMA SEES US LIKE THIS HE'LL GET THE WRONG IDEA AGAIN!!

Don't dieeeeeee!!

EVERY-ONE! COOL ARAO DOWN!

ALL RIGHT. GUESS I'LL LAY MY SWEAT-DRENCHED TOWEL ON YOU...

mweh heh!

GROSS! STOP IT!!

I JUST COULDN'T IGNORE A FRIEND WHO WASN'T FEELING WELL, THAT'S ALL!!

Yuuma! Are you watching?!

Yuuma kun in the middle of a match

UGH, NOW DISGUSTING. MEN ARE SO UNCOUTH.

Eeee!

Eeee!

BUT, IT'S MY LAST DAY OF STUDENT TEACHING.

DO YOUR BEST TO ENTERTAIN ME, WOULD YOU?

AWW, SENSEI! DON'T SAY IT'S YOUR LAST DAY! I'M SO SAD!

ME TOO!

WHY DON'T WE MEET UP PRIVATELY NEXT TIME?

PLEASE DON'T CREATE A HAREM AT SCHOOL, ELDER SISTER.

Sensei! I wrote something for you too!
To Shinogu Kagami-sensei
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. THIS... IS A SIGNATURE BOARD FROM EVERYONE IN OUR CLASS.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR EVERYTHING UP TO TODAY.
GAA-AAHH! HOLD ON A SECOND!!
I'M SCRATCHING IT OFF! I'M SCRATCHING IT OFF!
...IT LOOKS LIKE YOU WHITED OUT YOUR ORIGINAL NOTE AND WROTE SOMETHING LAME ON TOP...
SAEKI-KUN CONFESSED HIS LOVE FOR KAGAMI-SENSEI?!
EEEE! WHAT IS THAT? A CONFESSION?
E-E-E-EVEN I KNEW THAT I MESSED UP, SO I ERASED IT...
N..NO. THE PLAN WAS TO PUT MY HEART INTO IT...
To Shinogu Kagami-sensei

THIS CRAP DOESN'T HAVE YOUR HEART IN IT!!

I'll kill you!!

I'm so pissed so pissed!

AAHH. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DRIVE A SPIKE INTO JUST MY PART OF THE BOARD.

THOSE TWO REALLY ARE CLOSE. DO THEY KNOW EACH OTHER FROM THE PAST?

GAME SET!! TEAM MUSCLE G WINS!!

UJOH!!

IT WAS YOU THAT GAVE US A WEIRD TEAM NAME!

SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE ALSO WINNING HASSLE-FREE, BUT.. THAT TEAM NAME REALLY SUCKS

IN THIS HEAT, THEY'RE ABOUT THE ONLY TEAM WITH ANY ENERGY.

DOESN'T IT SOUND COOL, LIKE A TASK FORCE?

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE WINNING, YUUMA.

I'M PRETTY DISAPPOINTED WITH MYSELF FOR SEEING YOU AS SERENA EVEN AT A TIME LIKE THIS.

AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU

KEI-CHAN.

I'VE GOT A MATCH ON COURT B NEXT.

Oh? Okay

Come watch me

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?

ER, I'M NOT.

YUUMA'S GONNA SEE US.

HEY ...!

...QUIT IT!!
CRAP...
AH..
TAKE THAT!
UH!
ER...
...SERIZAWA...
Um
.....

PAYBACK.

MAYBE IT'S BEST IF I DON'T.

BECAUSE IT WOULD BOTHER YUUMA...

AND BECAUSE I'M CHEERING HIM ON...

YEAH. I'LL DO THAT.

LOLEUS WAS LIKE THAT TOO...

I'LL APOLOGIZE TO HER LATER.

...NO...

I'M SAVED... BY THAT PART OF SERIZAWA.

EVEN WHEN WE FIGHT OR I'M CRANKY, SHE SOON SMILES AND FORGIVES ME.

HEY, MANSERVANT. FAN ME.
SOOO HOT.
Desk blotter
SHINOGU-SAN...
THEY ALL WENT OFF TO THEIR MATCHES.
CAN'T YOU GET ONE OF YOUR GIRLS TO DO IT?
WHAT IS THIS?
WHY THE HELL AM I HERE WITH YOU ANYWAY?
WHEN YOU CALL ME THAT IT REMINDS ME OF THE PAST AND PISSES ME OFF.
HMUH'L
CAUSE YOU'RE STRONG BUT LACKING IN STAMINA, NUH, MISS SMYRNA?
I DON'T DO WELL IN HOT WEATHER.
THE PROBLEM IS THAT SERIZAWA AND I ARE TOO GOOD OF FRIENDS.
I NEED TO PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN US.
BUT IF I DO THAT, WILL I NOT GET TO HANG OUT WITH OR TALK WITH...
...SERIZAWA?
THAT...
...WOULD BE LONELY.

THAT DAY.
...I START TO REMEM-BER...
...ON HOT DAYS LIKE THIS...
...ANO WHAT DIO YOU THINK OF AS YOU DIEO?
... WHO ...
THERE'S SOMETHING. I'VE ALWAYS WANTEO TO ASK YOU
INSIDE THAT SUFFOCATING DARKNESS...

I WISHED ...
...FOR SERENA'S HAPPINESS FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
.....
GO ON ALREADY.
...IF YOU START FEELING BAD AGAIN, CALL FOR ME.
...IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I...
...WILL NEVER FORGET THAT DAY.

COME COME, SIT YOURSELF DOWN HERE FOR A BIT.

WHAT IS IT?

YOUR GIRL-FRIEND'S PLAYING.

GIRL-FRIEND?

HEY, SAEKI. OVER HERE, OVER HERE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IT ANYMORE.

HAVE YOU BEEN TOGETHER LONG?

Why does everyone think that?!

YOU IDIOT... SHE'S NOT MY GIRL-FRIEND!

SERIZAWA?!

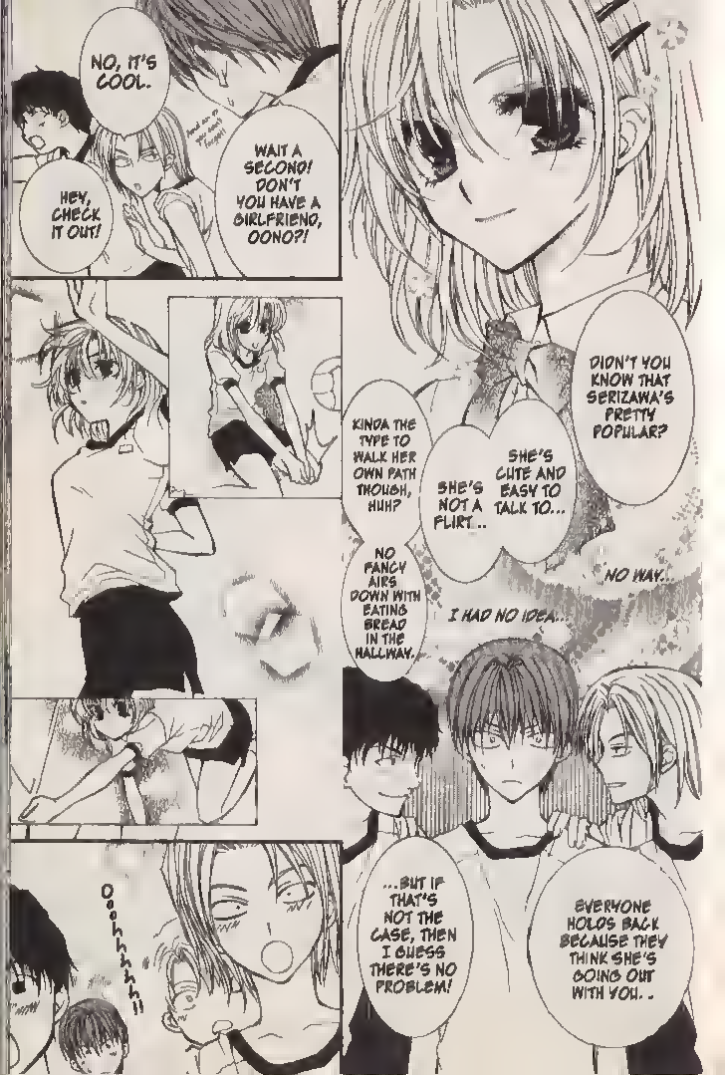
THEN MAYBE I'LL ASK HER OUT.

WHA?!

REALLY?

REEEALLY?

WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE SEVENTH GRADE!


NO, IT'S COOL.
WAIT A SECOND! DON'T YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, OONO?!
HEY, CHECK IT OUT!
DIDN'T YOU KNOW THAT SERIZAWA'S PRETTY POPULAR?
KINDA THE TYPE TO WALK HER OWN PATH THOUGH, HUH?
SHE'S CUTE AND EASY TO TALK TO...
SHE'S NOT A FLIRT..
NO FANCY AIRS DOWN WITH EATING BREAD IN THE HALLWAY.
NO WAY..
I HAD NO IDEA...
O-o-o-h-h-h-h-h!!
...BUT IF THAT'S NOT THE CASE, THEN I GUESS THERE'S NO PROBLEM!
EVERYONE HOLDS BACK BECAUSE THEY THINK SHE'S GOING OUT WITH YOU..

...THAT NOW I WANT TO PUT OUT THEIR EYES, AND SHOUT, "DON'T LOOK!!"

WHY IS IT, I WONDER.

AND THOSE HIPS YOU CAN ALMOST MAKE OUT BUT CAN'T...

WITH THOSE FAIR SLIM LEGS!

SERIZAWA REALLY IS GOOD, HUH?

SAEKI'S SO TRANS-PARENT.

Half-messing with him

HEH HEH HEH. LOOK AT HIM SUFFER.

There are lots of enemies!!

YUUMA! DON'T WASTE YOUR PRECIOUS FIGHTING SPIRIT ON ME!!

IT'S OKAY, YUUMA! I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT THESE GUYS!

WAKE UP, THAT'S A DUDE.

SHE'S PRETTY CUTE TOO.

HE SAYS HE'S GONNA DO SOMETHING ABOUT US.

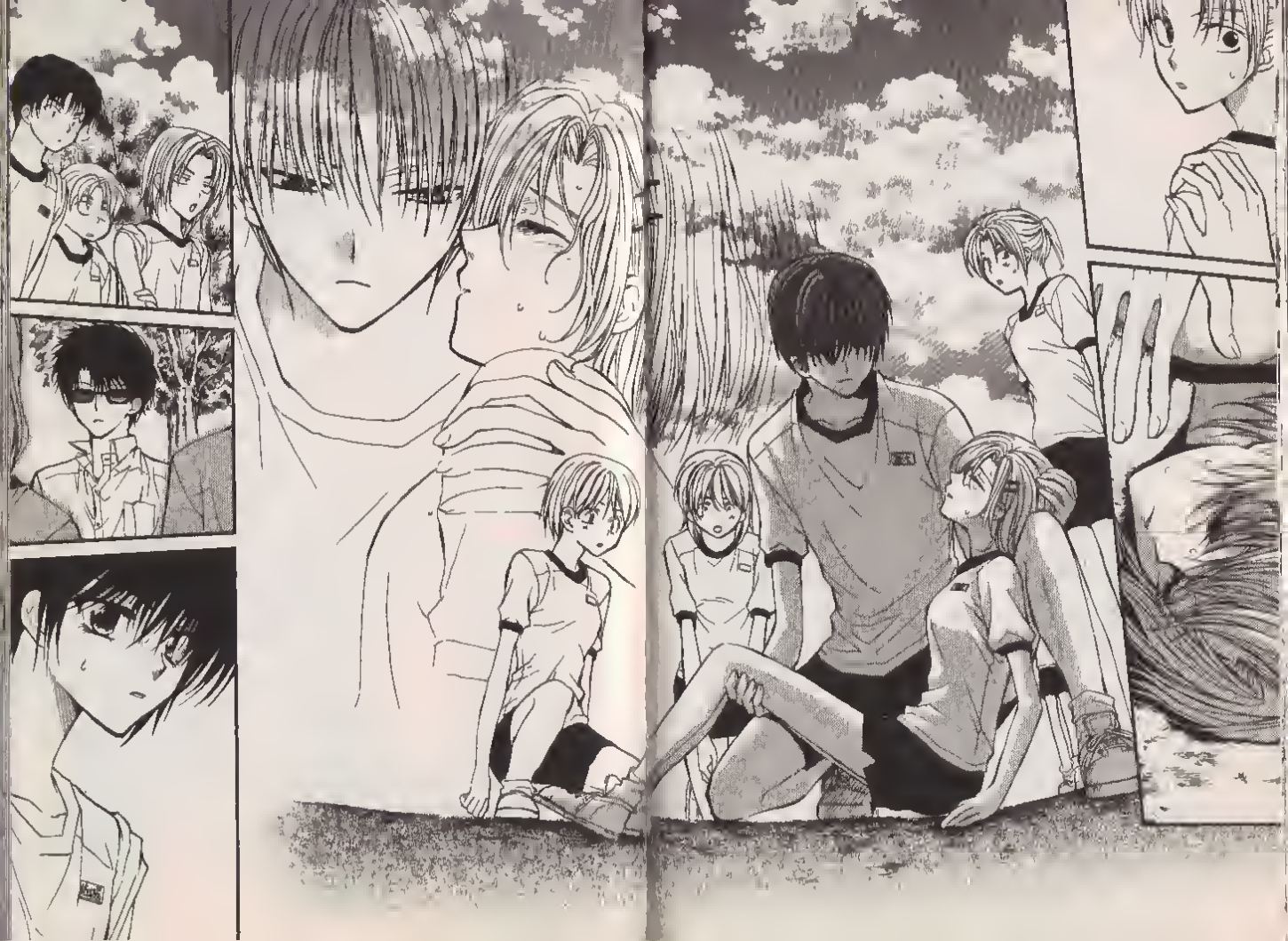
TEAM B-CHAN HAS THE CREEP VIBE DOWN PAT. HUH?

YUUMA.

...
I HOPE YOU WIN...
...AND THAT THINGS WORK OUT WITH SERIZAWA.
SO WE MIGHT HAVE A SHOW DOWN?
!!!
Bring it on!
YOU'RE SO MANLY, SERENA ...
IF MY TEAM WINS OUR NEXT MATCH, WE'LL BE AT THE TOP OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL.
OH... WE'VE ALSO... KEPT WINNING.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
DO YOU REALLY THINK OF SERIZAWA-SAN AS JUST A FRIEND?
UH...
DO YOU...
...IT LOOKS LIKE YOU [illegible] TELLING YOURSELF SHE'S A "FRIEND"...
... ALL IN VAIN!
I DO.
...REALLY THINK THAT?
WELL, TO ME...!

DOES SHE REALLY EXIST?
I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED, BUT...
SAY...
IS THAT...
...WHO IS SERENA?
W-WHOA!
SAEKI...
WHERE IS SHE?
...BECAUSE OF SERENA?

SERIZAWA ...!
ドクン
SERI...
SHE DID SEEM LIKE SHE WASN'T FEELING WELL.
HEAT-STROKE...
OH MAN... THIS IS BAD, RIGHT?
SERI-ZAWA... ARE YOU OKAY?!
WE NEED TO GET HER...



I'M IN TROUBLE IF I DO THIS
...EVERYONE WILL GET THE WRONG IDEA AGAIN...
...AND YUUMA WILL BE REALLY HURT.
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ME...
...CARRYING HER. IT COULD BE ANYONE...
...AND I HAVE TO GIVE HER TO SOMEONE ELSE.
BUT.
I WON'T GIVE HER TO ANYONE ELSE.
WHY IS IT?
I WON'T.
THE AIR THAT HAD BEEN SO NOISY UP UNTIL NOW...
...SUDDENLY STOPPED.
YOU ALL RIGHT? I'M TAKING YOU TO THE INFIRMARY.
KEI-CHAN ...?

I HAVE TO STOP HER

ALWAYS PUSHES HERSELF TOO HARD...

BECAUSE SERIZAWA...

...I JUST DON'T GET IT.

EARLIER ...

...YOU SHOOK ME OFF.

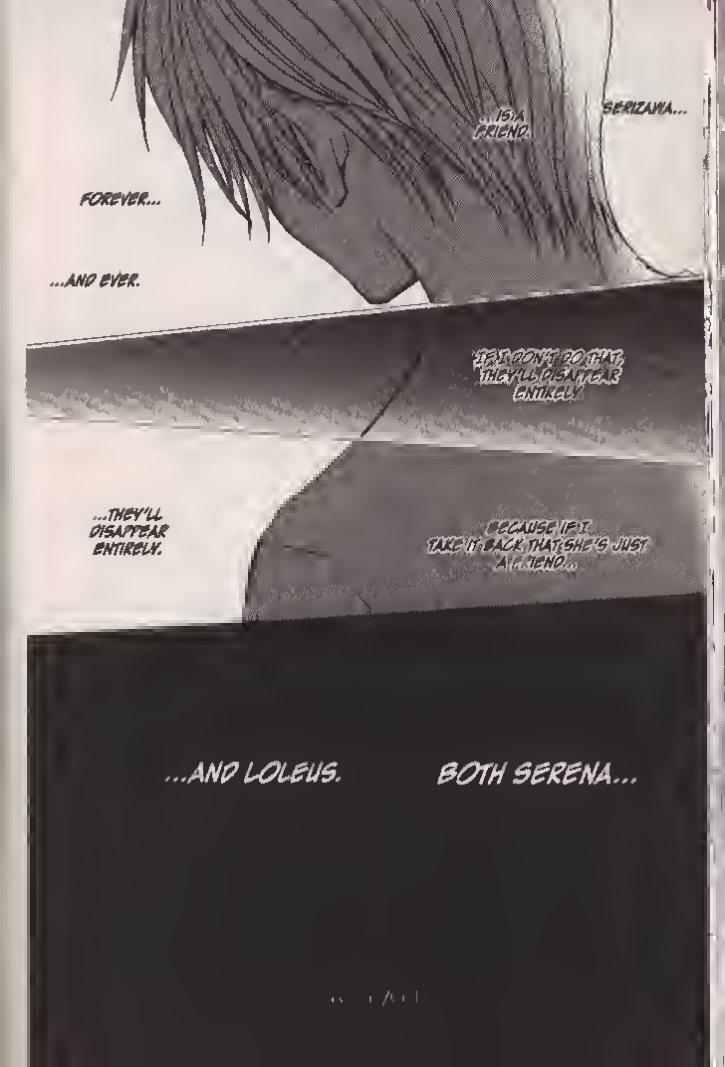
WHEN ...

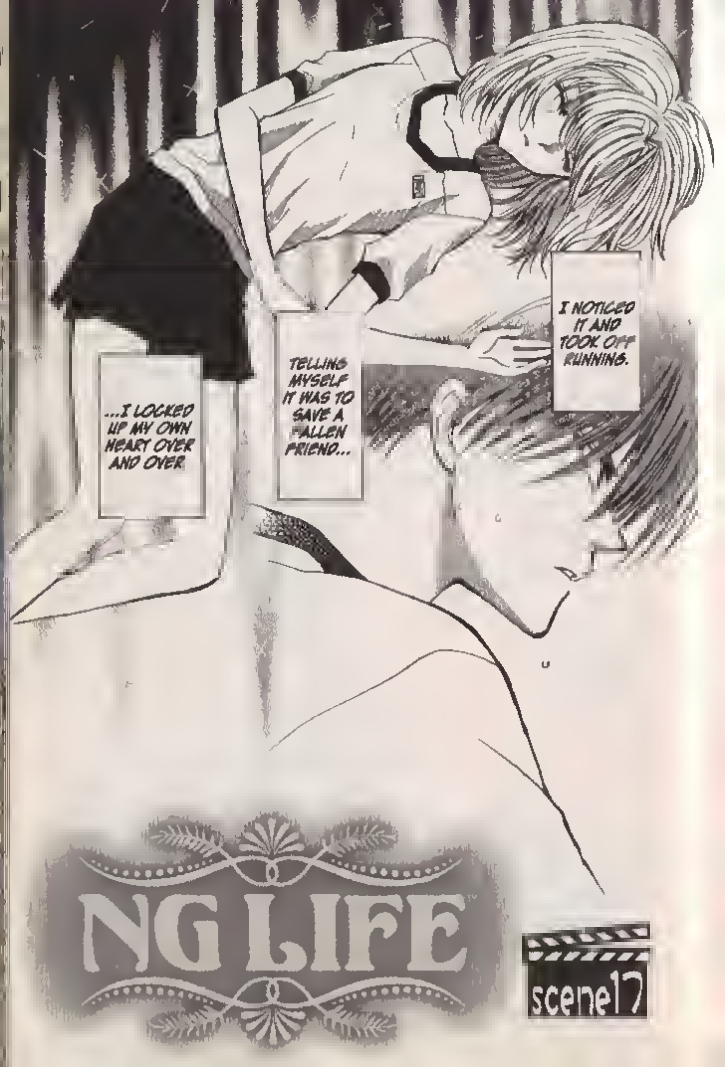
.....

WHEN A FRIEND... IS IN DANGER...

...I SAVE THEM.

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

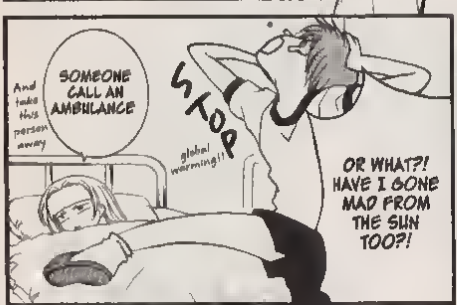

...IS A FRIEND.
SERIZAWA...
FOREVER...
...AND EVER.
IF I DON'T DO THAT, THEY'LL DISAPPEAR ENTIRELY.
...THEY'LL DISAPPEAR ENTIRELY.
BECAUSE IF I TAKE IT BACK, THAT SHE'S JUST A FRIEND...
...AND LOLEUS.
BOTH SERENA...

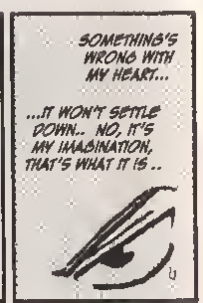

...I LOCKED UP MY OWN HEART OVER AND OVER.
TELLING MYSELF IT WAS TO SAVE A FALLEN FRIEND...
I NOTICED IT AND TOOK OFF RUNNING.
NG LIFE
scene17

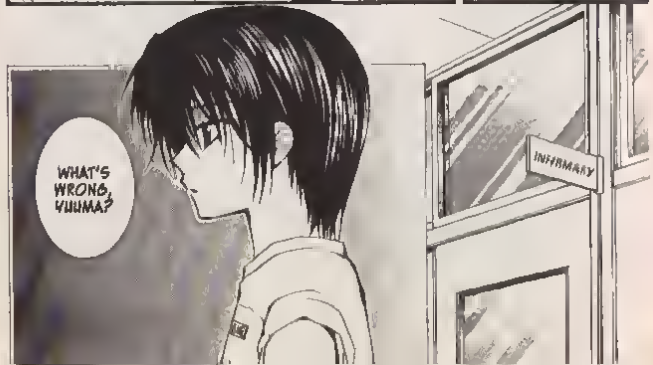
The rest of Team Laser K-chan

KEI-CHAN...?
A ritual?!
CALM THYSELF!!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?


And take this person away
SOMEONE CALL AN AMBULANCE
STOP
global warming!!
OR WHAT?! HAVE I GONE MAD FROM THE SUN TOO?!


SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MY HEART...
...IT WON'T SETTLE DOWN.. NO, IT'S MY IMAGINATION, THAT'S WHAT IT IS ..


WHAT'S WRONG, YUUMA?
INFIRMARY

AREN'T YOU GOING IN?
...NAH.
SERIZAWA-SAN SEEMS FINE, ANO...
...IF I GO IN...
...MOST LIKELY...
...KEIDAI WILL LEAVE.
I'LL GO BACK TO MY MATCH.

I had a lot of fun drawing all of the classmates during the Sports Tournament chapter ♥
I liked seeing all the sub (mob?) characters having fun and moving about
But volleyball has so many people playing that it took me forever to draw. I'd love to be able to have them show up again in the future every so often

I'm so sorry that I wasn't able to draw a lot of original pieces this time
The number of pages in the book is limited so I didn't have a lot of space
But to make it up, in volume 2 of "Yoiko no Kokoroe" that's coming out sometime this year (?), I'm planning on doing a ton of original material!
So all you "Yoiko" fans please check that out

Now then, thank you so much for reading this far into volume 3 of NG (but wait! There's still more so don't stop yet)
And please read volume 4 too!

SHALL I CARRY YOU TO THE INFIRMARY? LIKE A PRINCESS?

SAYS THE GUY WHO LOOKED LIKE HE WAS ABOUT TO PASS OUT.

SHINOGU-SAN...

What are you doing in the midst of all this commotion

YOU IDIOT. THIS IS BECAUSE YOU'RE KEEPING SERIZAWA ALL TO YOURSELF.

YOU SHOULD LEAVE IT TO ME.

IS SAEKI MASO-CHISTIC OR SOMETHING?

I'M SORRY, I WENT TOO FAR...

HOW ABOUT I KILL YOU SO HARD YOU NEVER GET REIN-CARNATED AGAIN?!

He made him mad on purpose

WE'VE GOT THE SEMI-FINALS NEXT TOO.

OH, SO THAT TEAM MADE IT?

.....

TEAM MUSCLE 6 WINS!!

HE SAID IF HE WENT IN, YOU'D LEAVE.

BUT HE LEFT ONCE HE GOT IN FRONT OF THE DOOR.

BECAUSE ...I WAS THERE...?

YUUMA... WAS JUST AT THE INFIRMARY TOO.

TO CHECK ON SERIZAWA.

OH...?

.....

I'M...

...THE WORST.

ALTHOUGH I DON'T WANT TO GET IN YUUMA'S WAY..

...I CAN'T PUT DISTANCE BETWEEN ME AND SERIZAWA.

...I WOULD HAVE ERASED YOU A LONG TIME AGO.
...IF YOU REALLY GOT IN YUUMA'S WAY...
WOW, SO I'M GONNA GET ERASED...
WHAT?
...I'M RELUCTANT TO SAY THIS, BUT...
NO...YOU MIGHT AS WELL JUST HIT ME ALREADY.
IF YOU'RE GONNA VENT ABOUT CRAP LIKE THAT, YOU PROBABLY WANT TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE.
I'm Yuuma's ally 24/7
WHAT ARE YOU, A FREAK?
...BECAUSE YOU WERE HERE TOO...
I'M SURE SERENA'S SOUL CAME HERE...
WHY YOU LITTLE ...
ESPECIALLY NOW...
ARE YOU TELLING ME I DON'T GET IN YUUMA'S WAY?
DON'T THINK THE ONLY SOUL THAT STRUGGLED TO GET HERE, LONGING TO SEE EVERYONE ...
...WAS YOURS ALONE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH...!
.....
WAAAHH!! WHAT IS UP WITH YOU?!
YEAH RIGHT, YOU FRIGGIN' LOSER!!
IT'S REALLY THAT BASTARD KEIGAI WHO'S JUST--!
HOW DID IT END UP THIS WAY...
I STARTED THIS MYSELF, BUT...
I'M DIZZY.
...IT'S SO HOT.

WAIT A SECOND, WHO THE HELL CARES ABOUT KEIDAI?!

スボー

Or if its gonna get awkward or whatever!

Huge fit

Oh no!

In the way I get upset

HUH... HAVE... I STARTED TO ACT A BIT LIKE HIM...?

YUUMA.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

IF I TELL SERIZAWA-SAN HOW I FEEL, IT'LL PROBABLY DESTROY OUR RELATIONSHIP.

I WONDER IF IT'LL MAKE THINGS AWKWARD BETWEEN ME AND KEIDAI TOO...

ズキ

I THOUGHT IF I TOLD HIM I WAS GOING TO CONFESS TO SERIZAWA-SAN I'D BE ABLE TO EXPOSE HIS TRUE FEELINGS FOR HER, BUT...

...INSTEAD HE SAYS HE'S GONNA CHECK ME ON? THAT MORON!!

NOW I'M TRAPPED AND CAN'T BACK OUT!

IF THINGS KEEP GOING THIS WAY, I REALLY WILL HAVE TO CONFESS...!

I KNOW THAT IF I DO THAT NOW, I'LL JUST GET TURNED DOWN.

BUT WHEN I SEE THOSE TWO... IT FEELS LIKE I'M GONNA GET LEFT BEHIND...

...WHAT DO YOU WANT?
MY TEAM'S MADE IT INTO THE FINALS.
WE'RE GOHHA PLAY YOU NEXT.
...HMM.
SO SOMEHOW YOU WON YOUR WAY THROUGH, HUH.
DO YOU WAHT TO STOP ME AFTER ALL?
Looks like my team was bicarrely strong
NO, IT WASN'T LIKE THAT!
YOU DOH'T HAVE TO HIDE IT. I ALREADY KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
YOU'RE MISTAKEH... THE OHE I LIKE IS...
SERENA AGAIN?
SERIOUSLY, WHO THE HELL IS SHE?
IT'S YOU...
IN YOUR PAST LIFE.
IF YOU TRY TO GO EASY ON ME DURING THE FINALS, WE'RE THROUGH.
HUH?
WELL...
...I GUESS IF I COH-FESS TO SERIZAWA-SAN...

WHY NOT? BECAUSE OF HOW FRIENDLY THE THREE OF US HAVE BEEN UNTIL NOW...
WHY NOT?
...I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HANG OUT WITH YOU MUCH MORE ANYHOW.
BECAUSE YOU TWO LIKE EACH OTHER (?) IS WHY!
SURE, THE THREE OF US, BUT WHY COULDN'T YOU AND I STILL HANG OUT?
NO GOOD.
I DON'T ...
...WANT THAT.
JUST DEAL WITH IT. I'M THE ONE WHO WANTS TO BE APART.

...HUH?

I'LL DEFINITELY BE TOGETHER WITH YOU.

I DON'T WANT TO BE APART.

カルあっ

WHA...WHAT, THAT'S LIKE SOMETHING A KID WOULD SAY!! WHAT AN IDIOT!

I DON'T CARE IF YOU CALL ME A KID OR AN IDIOT, I DON'T WANT THAT!

I WON'T BREAK UP!!

ザワッ

WE'RE NOT A COUPLE!!

THEY WERE A COUPLE IN THEIR PAST LIVES.

Got a boost of confidence from what Shinogu san said earlier

QUIT BEING SO SELFISH!

I'M SAYING I DON'T WANT TO BE WITH YOU!

LIAR!

FORMER WIFE VS. FORMER HUSBAND.

DIDN'T YOU SAY "I DON'T WANT TO BREAK OUR RELATIONSHIP, IT'S IMPORTANT TO ME"?!

DURING THE REINA SAKAKI-BARA INCIDENT

さわっ

SO SERIZAWA WASN'T THE ONLY ONE FOR HIM.

ANOTHER SCANDAL FOR SAEKI.

WHA... OUR RELATION-SHIP...?

YOU WERE THE ONE TALKING IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE.

YOU WERE EAVESDROP-PING ON ME, YOU BASTARD?!

YOU

What kind of relation-ship?

THE FINAL MATCH IS ABOUT TO BEGIN. ALL TEAM MEMBERS, PLEASE GATHER ON THE COURT

Shinggggg

Hssssss

Divorce papers

SERI-ZAWA IS SERIZAWA!

THAT'S IT?! ISN'T SERIZAWA-SAN ENOUGH?!

AND US IS US!!

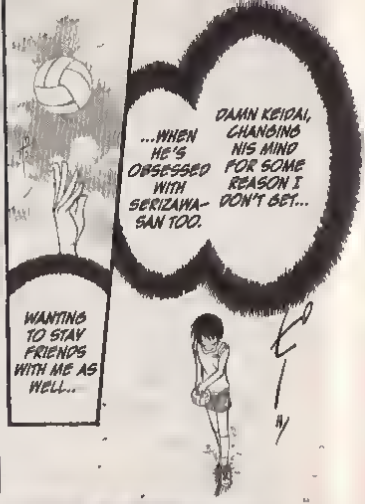
ERR, STUPID COUPLE OVER THERE, COME GATHER.

Weirdest lovers' quarrel ever

I SAID I'D CHEER YOU ON, BUT IF YOU'RE PLANNING TO BREAK UP WITH ME, I'LL STOP YOU WITH ALL MY MIGHT...

JUST SO YOU KNOW, I'M GOING ALL OUT...

...IS JUST WISHFUL THINKING!!


WANTING TO STAY FRIENDS WITH ME AS WELL...
...WHEN HE'S OBSESSED WITH SERIZAWA-SAN TOO.
DAMN KEIDAI, CHANGING HIS MIND FOR SOME REASON I DON'T GET...

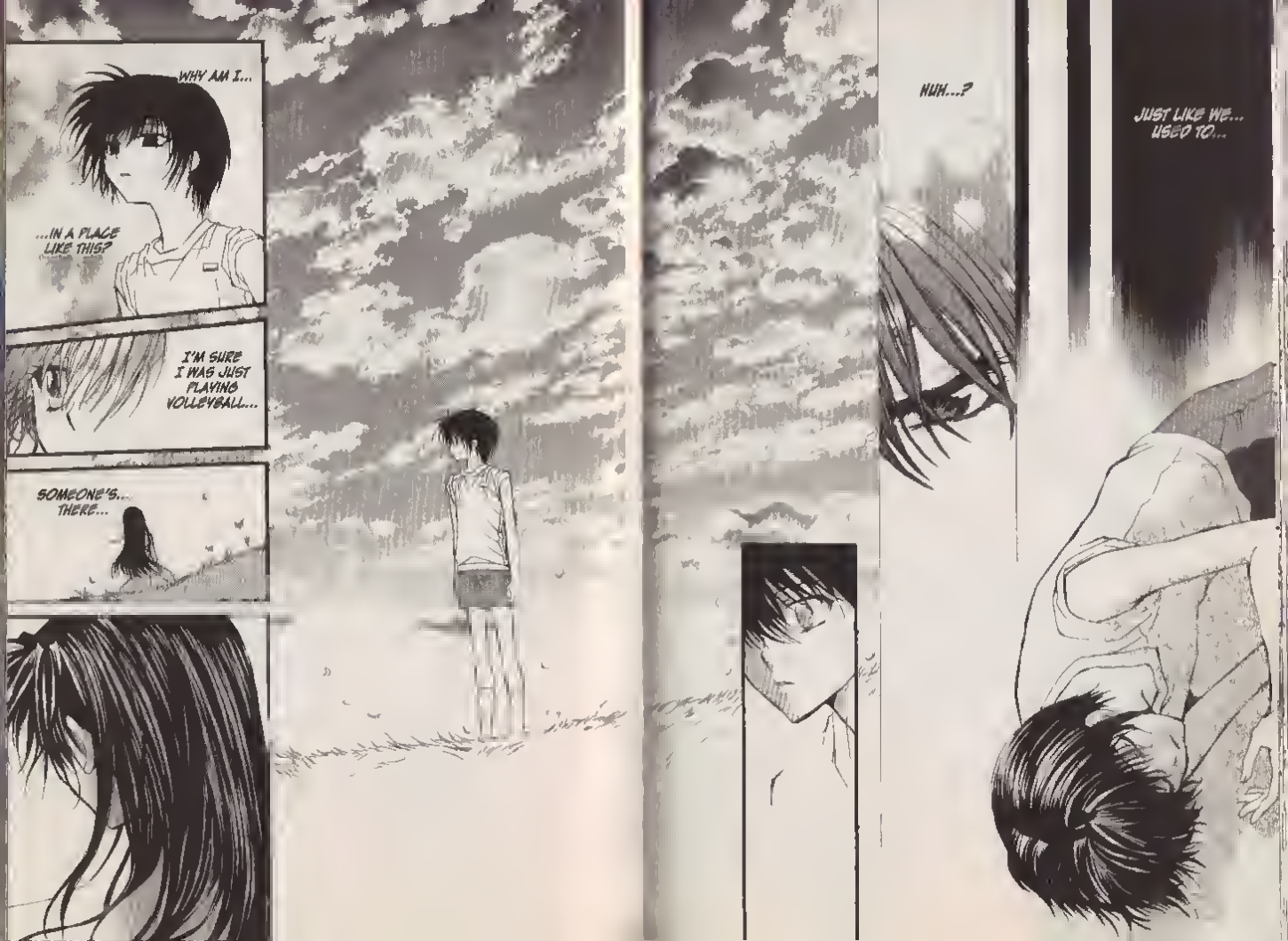
AN EASY VICTORY.
THANKS, MAN.

ARAO!

WAKABI. TIME TO GO ALL OUT.
I wish?
Actually.

OOH! YAY! ♡
BOTH OF THEM ARE IN THE FINALS!
I would die out ...Here
THEY'RE DOING WELL IN THIS HEAT.
90 MINUTES LATER.
Yap! I'm all better!
Are you all right?
YUUMA-KUN LOOKS A LITTLE TIRED...?
HUH...
STUPID KEIDAI'S GOT A SMUG LOOK ON HIS FACE...
Damn him
Actually can't see Keidai's face
IT'S SO HOT.
DAMMIT... MY HANDS ARE SLIPPERY FROM SWEAT.
MY EYES ARE STARTING TO GLAZE OVER TOO.

I JUST WISH THE THREE OF US COULD ALWAYS BE...
...SMILING TOGETHER WITHOUT THINKING TOO MUCH...
...ABOUT IT...
JUST LIKE WE...
UJOH?!
WHY IS IT THAT...
...IT'S MADE ME WANT TO STRETCH MY HANDS OUT...
...TOWARDS HIS WORDS?
WHY DID HE GET SO SERIOUS
HE'S ONLY KNOWN ME FOR A SHORT TIME AND ALL
AND HE CALLED ME IMPERTINENT
WHAT A STRANGE GUY
AND YET


WHY AM I...
...IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
I'M SURE I WAS JUST PLAYING VOLLEYBALL...
SOMEONE'S... THERE...
HUH...?
JUST LIKE WE... USED TO...

...RE...
NA...
SE...

...I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME...
WHY...
...ARE YOU CRYING?
I DON'T...
...KNOW WHY...
I KNEW THAT WAS SERENA.
...BUT...
OH MY...
...YOU'RE RIGHT.
PRO-BABLY...
...BECAUSE I'M HAPPY.

...AND BEING FULFILLED BY IT.

BECAUSE YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY SO MUCH LOVE...

YES...

...HAPPY ...?

...EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

...JUST BEEN RUSHING INTO THINGS ...

I'VE...

...IS THAT... SO.

ABOUT SERIZAWA-SAN, AND...

I'M SO SCARED...

...ABOUT ... KEIOAI TOO...

...OF BEING LEFT BEHIND...

...IN ORDER TO MEET *HIM*, AFTER ALL.

NO USE HIDING IT FROM ME.

I KNOW YOU.

WE'VE BEEN ON THIS LONG JOURNEY FOREVER...

...THEN YOU MUSTN'T LET GO OF HIS HAND.

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE APART FROM HIM...

...APART FROM HIM...?

DON'T WANT TO BE...

I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT KEIDAI...

...YOU DON'T?

...I COULD HAVE...
THOUGH I WISH...
...BEEN ABLE TO SAY THESE SAME WORDS TO HIM AS WELL...
BUT NEVER EVER LET GO OF WHAT'S DEAREST TO YOU.
AND IT'S OKAY TO BE LOST.
...YOUR JOURNEY IS YOUR OWN.
BUT YOUR JOURNEY WILL STILL CONTINUE ON.
EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE INHERITED MY SOUL...
MY JOURNEY...
...IS OVER.
...BY HIS SIDE.
WISHING ONLY TO BE...
FINALLY WE STRUGGLED ALONG TO HIS SOUL.
KEIDAI WANTS TO SEE YOU TOO.
.....
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN THINKING OF YOU.

AH...

.....

YOU WERE PLAYING SPORTS UNDER THAT STRONG SUN FOR A HELLUVA LONG TIME...

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, YUUMA-KUN?

WHAT THE HECK?!

DAMMIT... SO WE LOST. AND I WAS HOPING TO WIN AND CHASE KEIDAI AWAY

What's that?

You totally changed your objective!

THE GAME'S OVER.

Team K-chan was victorious due to Yuuma being out of commission

YUUMA-KUN!

AHHH!! THE SPORTS TOURNAMENT!!

ALTHOUGH YOU MAY NOT UNDERSTAND...

...I'VE BEEN WAITING FOREVER TO MEET YOU.

I DON'T WANT TO BE APART FROM YOU.

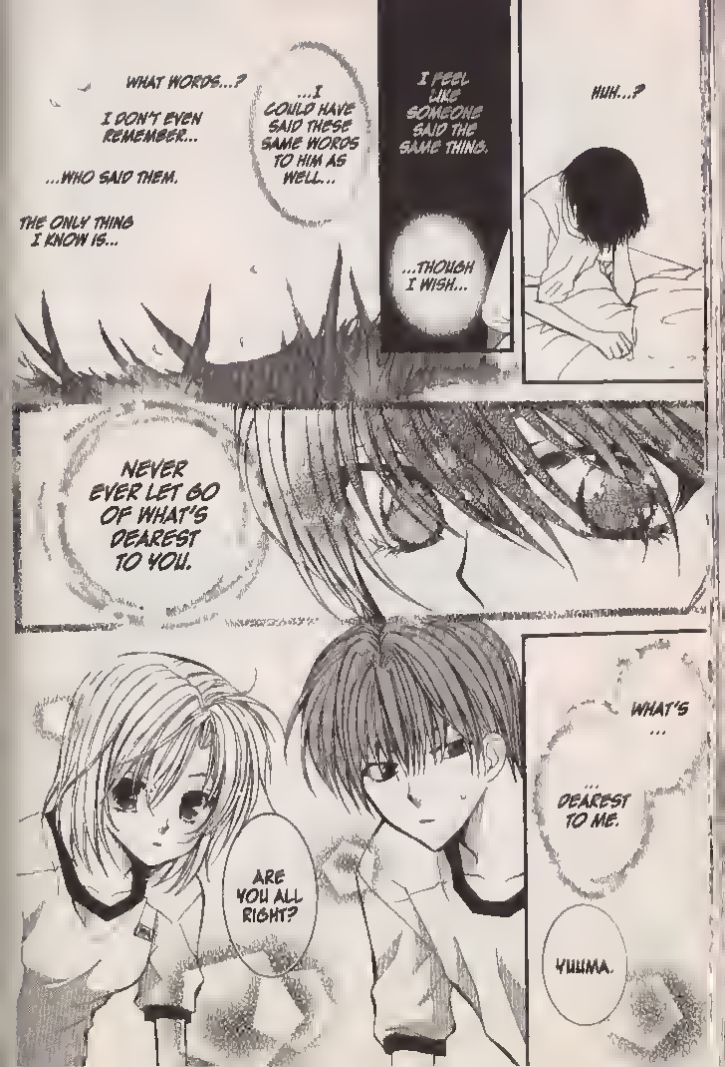
WHY ARE WE BACK TO THAT AGAIN!

Give that up already!

YOU TWO SURE ARE CLOSE.

...IN ORDER TO MEET HIM, AFTER ALL.

WE'VE BEEN ON THIS LONG JOURNEY FOREVER...

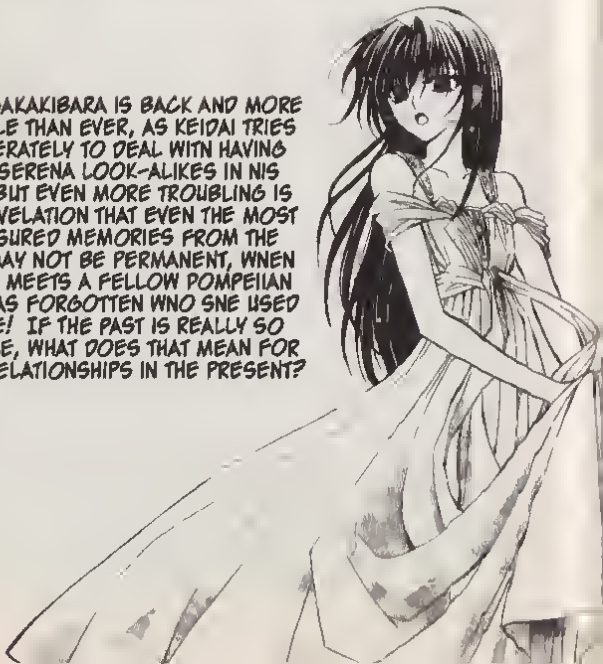

WHAT WORDS...?
I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER...
...WHO SAID THEM.
THE ONLY THING I KNOW IS...
...I COULD HAVE SAID THESE SAME WORDS TO HIM AS WELL...
I FEEL LIKE SOMEONE SAID THE SAME THING.
...THOUGH I WISH...
HUH...?
NEVER EVER LET GO OF WHAT'S DEAREST TO YOU.
WHAT'S ...
... DEAREST TO ME.
YUUMA.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

SHE CHANGED MY HESITATION...
...INTO...
...A PRAYER.
...MY HIDDEN FEELINGS TO LIGHT.
...GENTLY BROUGHT...
THE PERSON IN MY DREAM...
I GUESS BOTH OF THEM...
...TO ME AFTER ALL...
...ARE IMPORTANT...
Ujah
...AT LEAST FOR NOW, I'LL STILL...
...EVEN IF A TIME COMES SOMEDAY WHEN I HAVE TO LET THEM GO...
EVEN IF THAT'S CHILDISH AND I GET LAUGHED AT...

SO MY STUDENT TEACHING ENDS TODAY, HUH?
HOW TO PROTECT YUUMA FROM NOW ON...
Lest strange maggots attach themselves to him and he gets bullied
PLUS I HAVEN'T HAD ENOUGH HARRASSING OF KEIOAI.
HEY, YOU THERE.

MINO DIRECTING ME...
...TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE?

IN THE NEXT

NG LIFE

REINA SAKAKIBARA IS BACK AND MORE TROUBLE THAN EVER, AS KEIDAI TRIES DESPERATELY TO DEAL WITH HAVING TWO SERENA LOOK-ALIKES IN HIS LIFE! BUT EVEN MORE TROUBLING IS THE REVELATION THAT EVEN THE MOST TREASURED MEMORIES FROM THE PAST MAY NOT BE PERMANENT, WHEN KEIDAI MEETS A FELLOW POMPEIIAN WHO HAS FORGOTTEN WHO SHE USED TO BE! IF THE PAST IS REALLY SO FRAGILE, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR THEIR RELATIONSHIPS IN THE PRESENT?